METRO / A21

Police on lookout for female bombers, NCRPO claims

BUSINESS / B1

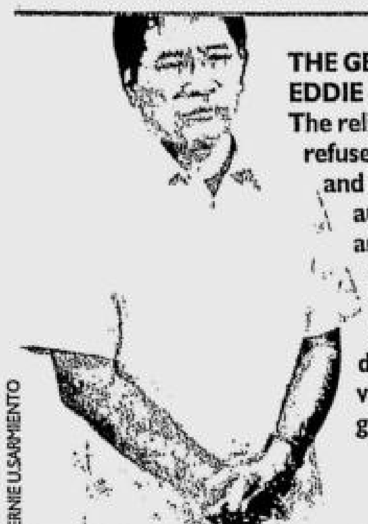
RP Asia's 2nd worst in cable TV piracy, HK group says

NEWS / A2

Cory on Miriam charge: I would never espouse violence

NEWS / A2

Erap bail petition denied; Estradas blame Palace



ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

THE GET BROTHER EDDIE order is out. The religious leader refuses to pay bail and dares the authorities to arrest him as he says it would set off more damaging disclosures vs the government.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, October 5, 2005 ★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 299 P18

website: www.inq7.net

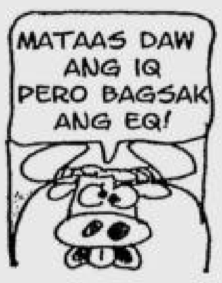
Suplico to Miriam: I had better grades in bar exams

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE "NINCOMPOOPS and dimwits" strike back.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday got it from all sides as a consequence of her privi-

SUPLICO / A8


MATAAS DAW ANG IQ PERO BAGSAK ANG EQ!

DOJ: Arrest Bro. Eddie

Protesters can invoke Marcos law to rally without permit

By Norman Bordadora and Margaux C. Ortiz

NEXT TIME YOU TAKE TO THE streets to demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, it may be to your best interest if you carried a copy of Batas Pambansa No. 880.

Passed during the rule of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the law allows protesters to hold peaceful demonstrations even without a written permit if the authorities fail to act on their application for such a permit, the Commission on Human Rights said yesterday.

The CHR spelled out its position yesterday as police forcibly dispersed protesters, including Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who tried to march on Malacañang to demand the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

Eight protesters were detained

DICTATOR'S/ A4

Journalist shot, now in critical condition

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

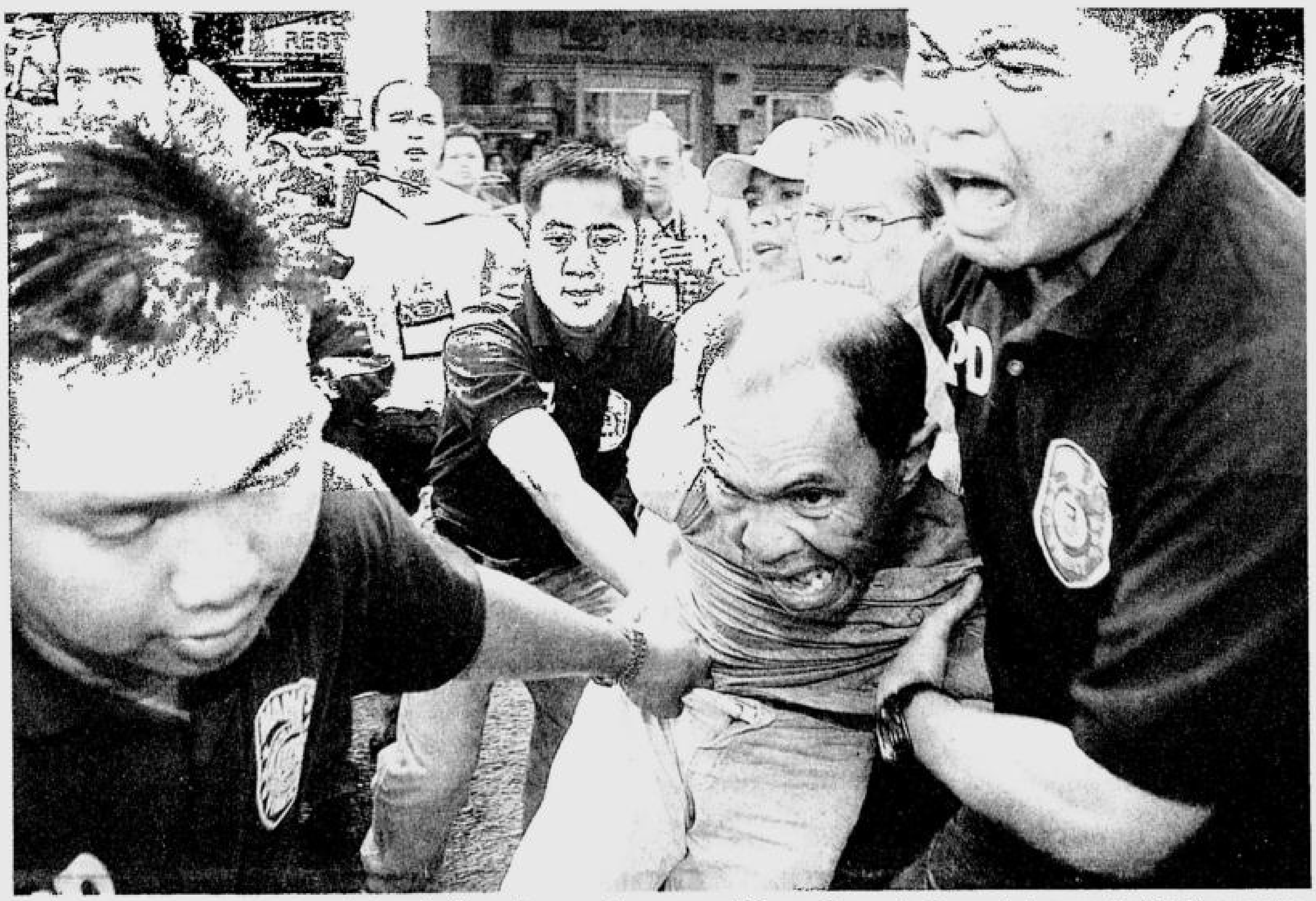
GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AN unidentified gunman wearing a bonnet and a helmet shot and critically wounded a business reporter of the weekly Mindanao Bulletin outside his office yesterday, police and witnesses said.

Danilo Aguirre, 25, suffered a bullet wound in the attack at 8:15 a.m.

International press watchdogs call the Philippines one of the world's most dangerous places for working journalists. Six reporters have been killed this year alone.

Thirteen members of the press were murdered in 2004, the largest number of cases in a single year since democracy was restored after the downfall of dicta-

ANOTHER/ A20



THE PICTURE says a thousand words about "calibrated preemptive response:" No permit, no rally. Demonstrators are forcibly dispersed by riot police even before their anti-GMA rally can get going on Lepanto Street near the University of the East in Manila on Tuesday. Eight marchers are arrested and 20 others slightly injured. AFP

SC orders Senate to present Gonzales

By Armand N. Nocum,
TJ Burgonio
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERday moved to stop the bickering between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Senate, ordering the upper chamber's blue ribbon committee to present National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and explain why he should not be released from its custody.

The high tribunal ordered the Senate sergeant-at-arms to bring Gonzales to a hearing on Oct. 11. It directed the committee and the solicitor general to respond to a petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Gonzales seeking his release. The committee also was told to produce transcripts of Gonzales' testimony during a nationally televised hearing on Sept. 21.

Gonzales has been at the center of the raging political firestorm since he refused to respond to questions during the hearing conducted by the blue ribbon committee in connection with a deal he signed with the US lobby firm Venable LLP.

The P50-million contract seeks US funding for Ms Arroyo's project to amend the Philippine Constitution. Critics said this invited foreign interference in a strictly sovereign undertaking.

The 58-year-old Gonzales was cited in contempt and ordered detained. But because his blood pressure shot up during the hearing, he was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, where he remains confined under Senate custody.

The Senate committee has repeatedly rejected Palace attempts to secure the release of Gonzales, unless another official could explain

SC ORDERS/ A8

Anti-GMA evangelist says timing suspicious

By Armand N. Nocum
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S STARTING TO look a lot like Malacañang is turning the heat up.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest Bro. Eduardo "Eddie" Villanueva on charges of estafa filed by a cousin of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's in connection with the operation of Channel 11 on free TV.

"It is imperative that this warrant be immediately serviced and I do not see any reason why Mr. Villanueva cannot be located and arrested as we have full confidence in the capability and resourcefulness of the NBI," Gonzalez said in his order dated Sept. 27.

Assuring that there was no persecution of certain people critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Gonzalez said his office had nothing to do with the issuance of the arrest warrant.

Villanueva, leader of Jesus Is Lord Movement (JIL) and defeated presidential candidate, has joined anti-Arroyo rallies and has called on the President to step down because of allegations that she cheated in the 2004 elections and committed other illegal acts. Ms Arroyo has denied committing electoral fraud.

Gonzalez said the Department

DOJ/ A20

'Luisita stocks best model for land reform'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Blanche S. Rivera
in Manila

THE DISSOLUTION OF HACIENDA LUISITA's stock distribution option (SDO) agreement could be used as a precedent to dissolve the same corporate land reform scheme covering 12 other haciendas in the country, a member of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) said yesterday.

But the PARC member, a former official of the Department of Agrarian Reform, cautioned the government against dissolving the SDO outlined in Republic Act No. 6657 (the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988) because it might be the "best" model for land reform.

The source gave his observations during an interview at a regional consultation in Baguio City on a foreign-financed DAR study that described four scenarios for Philippine land reform when the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) ends in 2008.

He asked not to be named to avoid pre-

LUISITA/ A4

SUNRISE, SUNSET
Muslim women are on their way to the Blue Mosque in Maharlika Village in Taguig City after Muslim scholars announced on Tuesday the sighting of the moon on Monday night signaling the start of Ramadan. The Muslims' holiest month is observed by fasting before the sun rises until the last rays of sun have vanished from the horizon. REM ZAMORA

Seaman's body still unburied after 2 months

By Nikko Dizon

RANDY NADERA, ONE OF MILlions of overseas Filipino workers (OFW), has been dead more than two months.

And his widow, Susan, is still at a loss as to how she can bury him.

"We really don't have any money left," the 45-year-old widow said yesterday.

Susan's voice cracked as she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview: "The embalmer told me that we should bury him by Sunday because the formaline is already wearing off."

A wake for Randy is being held at their house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Danilo Boysillo, Susan's uncle, said the city council of Caloocan will discuss the issue of Randy's

SEAMAN'S/ A6

'Sex' camp reconstructs men's view of women

By Stella O. Gonzales

(Editor's note: Oct. 5 is the International Day of No Prostitution.)

SPECIAL REPORT

FOR THESE YOUNG MEN, IT WAS AN epiphany.

Terence Cleo Gloria, 20, was a freshman at the University of the Philippines-Cebu when he started frequenting bars with his *barkada* and boarding house companions. When they had extra cash, they would "table" prostituted women—a "normal" pastime, they thought, for others like them.

It was a different "trip" for Lester Añonuevo, now 19, and his friends. They enjoyed watching porn videos where women were treated as mere commodities, and some of their female friends even watched along with them.

In May 2004, Añonuevo attended the Young Men's Camp on Gender Issues, Sexuality and Prostitution. A year later, Gloria and his friends made up the third batch of attendees.

The experience dramatically changed the way they viewed and treated women.

Women's issues were not exactly new to Añonuevo, a development communication student at Batangas State University who had previously done research on the matter. But the camp was an "eye-opener."

"I asked myself: What am I doing? We

'SEX' CAMP/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/04/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

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Erap bid for bail denied

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY DENIED FOR LACK of merit the petition for bail of detained ex-President Estrada who is facing plunder and perjury charges before the anti-graft court.

In its decision, the three-member Special Division said the grounds cited in Estrada's petition did not justify the grant of bail "especially at this point when the prosecution has already established a prima facie case against him."

Plunder, or large-scale corruption, is a non-bailable capital offense.

Estrada argued that because of his "age, health and prominence," his being free on bail would not unfairly prejudice anyone.

He argued that his release would save the government a lot of money and that he had refused exile on five occasions in January and February 2001.

He also said he had a 100-year-old mother he needed to see.

New grounds

In rejecting bail, Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro and Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz and Diosdado Peralta explained that the term "prima facie denoted evidence which, unexplained or unopposed, is sufficient to sustain the proposition it supports or to establish the facts or counter-balance the presumption of innocence to warrant conviction."

They noted that Estrada did not anchor his motion for bail on the absence of strong evidence of guilt, but instead invoked new grounds.

They explained that "the grant or denial of bail in capital offenses only hinges on the issue of whether or not the evidence of the guilt of the accused is strong."

"The word strong does not mean that the prosecution must present proof beyond reasonable doubt," they said.

The justices said "it would not be in accord with law and reason to grant bail to accused Joseph Estrada on the pretext that probability of flight is insignificant."

'Decision lacks merit'

Estrada said it was the decision of the Sandiganbayan that was lacking in merit. He said the evidence presented by the prosecution was weak and that the charges against him were politically motivated.

"Assuming, however, that the charges are true, no public funds were involved here," Estrada said in a statement.

Estrada's wife and son, both senators, deplored the Sandiganbayan decision.

"If you compare the charges they (the Arroyo administration) are facing now, (Estrada's) case is mere jaywalking so I am angry, as a wife, because I can feel what (Estrada) feels now that he has been in detention for almost five years," said Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, blamed Malacañang for the decision.

He said this was because his father remained very popular "as reported even by the United States."

"I think these people in Malacañang, specially Mrs. Arroyo, are very afraid of President Estrada the moment he comes out. So I think the Sandiganbayan was influenced again by Gloria," Jinggoy said. *Nelson F. Flores, with a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Businesses at NorthRail project give gov't problems

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE THE RELOCATION OF THOSE LIVING BY the railroad tracks has been proceeding smoothly, Malacañang officials have admitted they were encountering problems moving commercial establishments out of the way of the NorthRail project.

President Macapagal-Arroyo met with her economic managers in Makati City yesterday to discuss, among other things, the status of 32-km rail project to be built and financed by China.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters Vice President Noli de Castro briefed the officials on the status of the relocation of residents and business establishments along the railroad tracks that would stretch from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan.

De Castro, Bunye said, reported that while there was "substantial progress" in the relocation of the informal settlers or squatters, this was not the case with the commercial establishments located along the railroad tracks.

"We're encountering some problems here but we believe this will be resolved with the cooperation of all agencies of the local government," Bunye said.

In a later phone interview, Bunye said that while the squatters were being remunerated to move, the commercial establishments which did not have permits and were thus illegal were not, prompting their owners to resist their eviction.

The $503-million project (including a counterpart fund of $82 million from the Philippine government) is now the subject of a Senate inquiry after Senate President Franklin Drilon charged that it was one of the "colossal corrupt deals" entered into by the government and the major reason he withdrew his support from the President in July.

Last month, President Arroyo said Chinese President Hu Jintao had complained to her about the delay in the implementation of the NorthRail project during their bilateral talks held on the sidelines of the UN World Summit in New York.

Manila and Beijing entered into a $421-million loan agreement during President Arroyo's state visit to China in 2004 to rehabilitate the old Philippine National Railways line that runs all the way to Damortis, La Union.

The first phase is the 32-km rail line from Caloocan to Malolos. The project is the biggest yet entered into by the Philippines and China.

House committees approve draft of antiterror bill

By Michael Lim Ubac

CITING "VERY PRECARIOUS TIMES," the House committees on justice and foreign affairs approved yesterday a draft of the country's first antiterror law, which not only provides for warrantless arrests, penalties ranging from imprisonment to death and fines of up to P10 million, but also curtails the right of media to interview alleged terrorists.

Despite its controversial provisions and unresolved issues, the two committees approved the bill in full during a closed-door session at the House of Representatives. The draft is a consolidation of 15 proposed bills aimed at giving President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration the means to fight terrorism.

"These are extraordinary and very precarious times that call for a resolute and swift action from the state. Congress must no longer vacillate in instituting exceptional and expedient measures to thwart all terror attacks," said Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the justice committee.

Alluding to Sunday's deadly bombings in Bali, Indonesia, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the foreign affairs committee, said, "We do not have to wait for bigger terror attacks to convince us of the immediacy and indispensability of this law."

Militant lawmakers led by Reps. Teodoro Casiño, Liza Maza, Etta Rosales and Crispin Beltran denounced the measure and charged that the railroading of the bill at the committee level and its imminent passage prove that Ms Arroyo's allies are bent on ensuring her tight grip on power.

They promised to vigorously oppose the bill's enactment into law when it is introduced for debate on the House floor next week.

Cuenco said Ms Arroyo would certify the bill as urgent to ensure its quick passage.

Datumanong said that the bill was a product of at least 9 public hearings, while Cuenco said the joint committee's technical working group had met 12 times to iron out contentious issues.

The proposed "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005" contains 32 provisions defining terrorism, establishing institutional mechanisms to prevent it, and providing penalties, among other things.

It defines terrorism as "the premeditated, threatened and actual use of violence, or force against persons, or force or by any other means of destruction perpetrated against persons, properties, or the environment, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear, or chaos to the general public, group of persons, or segment thereof, or coercing or intimidating the government to do or abstain from doing an act."

Terrorism is committed when there's an "intent to create or sow danger ... or coerce the government" through the following acts: threatening or causing death or harm, causing damage, unlawful interference of an essential service, hijacking, kidnapping, assassinating, killing or violently attacking an internationally protected person, attacking cyberspace, destroying natural resources, unlawful manufacture/selling/acquiring, among others, chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents, and possession of explosives, bombs, grenades, projectiles, devices or other lethan weapons.

The penalties for any one of them ranges from imprisonment to death and fines of up to P10-million.

Conspiracy or "proposal to commit terrorism" carries a penalty of imprisonment of not less than six years but not more than 12 years, plus a P5-million fine.

At a press conference, Maza pointed out that the bill clips the right of the news media to arrange interviews with individuals or members of organizations "with intent to sow terror."

"The crucial element here... is the intention to create fear. But who will determine intention? The Justice Secretary? This is a very subjective concept," said Maza, adding that the main objection to the bill was it was "too vague and too general."

Casiño said Section 11, which concerns failure to disclose acts of terrorism, could be used to harass the media.

"There was apparently pressure from Malacañang to rush the approval of the antiterrorism bill. This draconian measure, coupled with the 'no permit, no rally policy,' the 'rule of calibrated preemptive response' and Executive Order 464 completes the legal infrastructure for de facto martial rule," he said.

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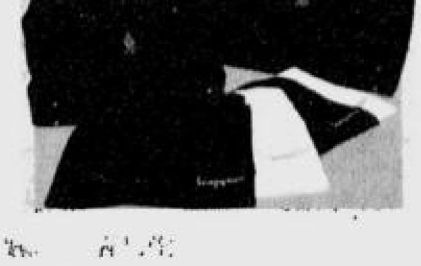

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5543, Series of 2005.

ANTI-GMA PLOT

Cory: I'd never espouse violence

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON COJUANGCO Aquino yesterday said she would never espouse violence in bringing down an unpopular President, having herself suffered through seven coup attempts in her six-year rule.

She denied any involvement in an alleged plot to remove or assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo as claimed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Santiago accused Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon of being behind a plot to remove Ms Arroyo by Oct. 15, either through a coup or by assassination.

"I was surprised. All I can say about Miriam is that she has a very wild imagination. My God! me of all people? I was a victim of seven coup attempts and I've never believed in violence," Aquino said in a mixture of English and Filipino.

She reminded Santiago that her husband, opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., had been assassinated.

Power of prayer

The only thing she believed in was the power of prayer, and praying was what she has been doing, Aquino said.

Santiago was agrarian reform secretary when Aquino was President.

Aquino also clarified that she only made an appeal for, not demanded, the President's resignation.

She said she last saw Drilon at the Aug. 21 commemoration of her husband's death, which Ms Arroyo attended.

Another former President, Fidel Ramos, downplayed reports of the alleged assassination plot.

Speaking from Frankfurt in Germany, Ramos said people must "differentiate between threat and capability."

"Coup plotters must be qualified and have the capability to do so," he said.

Ramos said he would fight any coup attempt against the Arroyo government in the same way that he helped the Aquino administration survive seven coups when he was defense secretary.

"Coups will take the Philippines back to the pit of economic deprivation as no international government or investor will ever invest in the country," he stressed.

Ramos was backed by Aquino when he ran in the 1992 presidential election in which he defeated Santiago.

Claiming she was cheated, Santiago filed an election protest but abandoned it when she ran for the Senate three years later.

The National Bureau of Investigation, meanwhile, said there was basis to continue investigating the alleged assassination plot against the President. *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mining exec in Charter body opposed

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA – WHAT IS the board chair of a foreign mining company doing in the consultative commission (Concom) on constitutional change?

Church officials and environment groups here protested the appointment to the Concom of Jose Leviste Jr., chair of Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC) Philippines, an Australian-owned company.

"[President Macapagal-Arroyo] committed a serious mistake in appointing a person who is a mercenary of foreign mining companies, more than anything else," said Bishop Ramon Villena of the Catholic diocese covering the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Leviste joins 40 other Concom members who have been chosen by the President, through Executive Order 453, to propose possible amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

Villena said people who are tasked with proposing changes in the Constitution should be of "impeccable" integrity and are neutral about national issues.

Villena and Leviste have been at opposing fronts of the proposed CAMC project here, which plans to conduct large-scale mining operations for gold and copper in Barangay Didipio in Kasibu town, near the Nueva Vizcaya-Quirino border.

But Leviste dismissed the allegations raised by Villena and other groups, saying he has been "into Constitution-making in the last 35 years and skeptics can check my work in the drafting of the 1971 Constitution."

Gudani, colonel move closer to court-martial

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES will elevate its case of insubordination against newly retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan to the pretrial stage this week, a spokesperson said yesterday.

The two Marine officers face court-martial for defying President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to government and uniformed officials not to testify in congressional inquiries without her approval.

They were charged with violating Article of War 65 for disobeying a legal order from a superior officer, the Commander in Chief.

AFP Provost Marshal Col. Henry Galarpe had reportedly decided the case against the two officers was strong and would shortly recommend that the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) proceed with the pretrial investigation.

'Strong evidence'

"I believe that will be the recommendation. The evidence against them is strong and they did not give a counter-statement," AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said yesterday.

Gudani and Balutan reported to Galarpe's office on Monday to hear the charges against them.

But on the advice of their lawyers, they invoked their right to remain silent since no formal complaint had been filed against them. Their lawyers said the two officers should have also been given the chance to confront the witnesses against them.

But Pascual said "it would have been better if they gave statements so the provost marshal could have a basis to evaluate the case."

He said the pretrial investigation could start next week or as soon as the JAGO assigns a team of military prosecutors to the case.

Gudani, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1973, retired on Oct. 4.

But the AFP said he could still be prosecuted since the alleged offense was committed on Sept. 28, when he was still in the active service.

Defying orders

"He is still under military jurisdiction for the purpose of investigation and trial," Pascual said.

While Gudani is now exempt from Executive Order No. 464, Balutan, a member of PMA Class '83, is still bound by the EO.

The two had defied the EO by appearing before the Senate committee on national defense and security which is investigating alleged election fraud in the May 2004 elections. The two had been assigned to Lanao del Sur, one of the provinces where cheating allegedly took place at the behest of the President.

Gudani, who was the commander of the 1st Marine Brigade and of Task Force Ranao, said he was suddenly recalled to Manila during the crucial canvassing of votes.

Balutan, who was a battalion commander, said Army Col. Gominto Pirino, Gudani's replacement, ordered him to "slacken" security during the canvassing.

After the two appeared in the Senate, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga promptly relieved them of their posts. Gudani was assistant superintendent of the PMA while Balutan was deputy commandant of the academy's cadet corps.

Ex-Powell aide is new US Embassy chargé

A FORMER AIDE OF THEN US SECretary of State Collin Powell and Washington's one-time point man for the refugee crisis in war-torn Kosovo is the incoming US chargé d'affaires in Manila.

Paul W. Jones succeeds the current chargé Darryl Johnson who is set to leave the country next week, according to US Embassy press attache Matthew Lussenhop.

The Bush administration has yet to name its next ambassador to Manila since the departure of Francis Ricciardonne last May.

"We expect that there will be a White House announcement any day now... and that the Senate will act for the confirmation process. We hope that the new ambassador will be here sometime next month," Johnson told reporters on Monday.

Johnson was then at the Department of Foreign Affairs to introduce Jones, who arrived in Manila on Sept. 15 and has initially served as deputy chief of mission.

Evangelical churches still for GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION of evangelical churches said it continued to recognize President Macapagal-Arroyo as the country's legitimate leader "until she is proven guilty."

The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) released its stand in a statement following a meeting of its executive committee yesterday.

The PCEC is composed of 85 denominations, 130 missions organizations and more than 20,000 local churches.

The group said evidence must be presented to determine once and for all if there was "massive and systematic cheating" in the 2004 elections.

"Until this is done, it will be very difficult for [Ms Arroyo] to recover her credibility. Without much credibility, she will continue to have serious problems in governance," it said.

The PCEC, led by Bishop Efraim Tendero, said it was important that the President be declared "not guilty" of manipulating the 2004 vote.

"In the modern world of democracy, God delegates his authority to rulers who are chosen by the people," it said.

"This is why voting is a duty and the ballot is a sacred trust. We are not mere spectators but participants in the choice of our rules. Those who subvert the people's choice by fraud or force or funds have no right to rule," it said.

The PCEC, following the lead of another evangelical group, also declared its support for Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, a born-again Christian.

Gudani, with Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, testified at a Senate hearing last week to having heard of alleged massive cheating to favor the President in Lanao last year.

"We commend Gen. Gudani for his courage in giving his testimony about electoral fraud at great personal cost. We do not judge his claims to be gospel truth but they have to be fairly evaluated," said the PCEC.

The Philippines for Jesus Movement earlier heaped praises on the two military officers who defied a presidential order banning Executive Branch officials and military officers from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's permission.

The PCEC also issued a strong, if somewhat late, criticism of the House of Representatives' junking of the impeachment complaint against the President.

"We appealed to our lawmakers to rise above partisan political interests and put the welfare of the nation first. They did not do this. Instead they voted only as politicians," it said.

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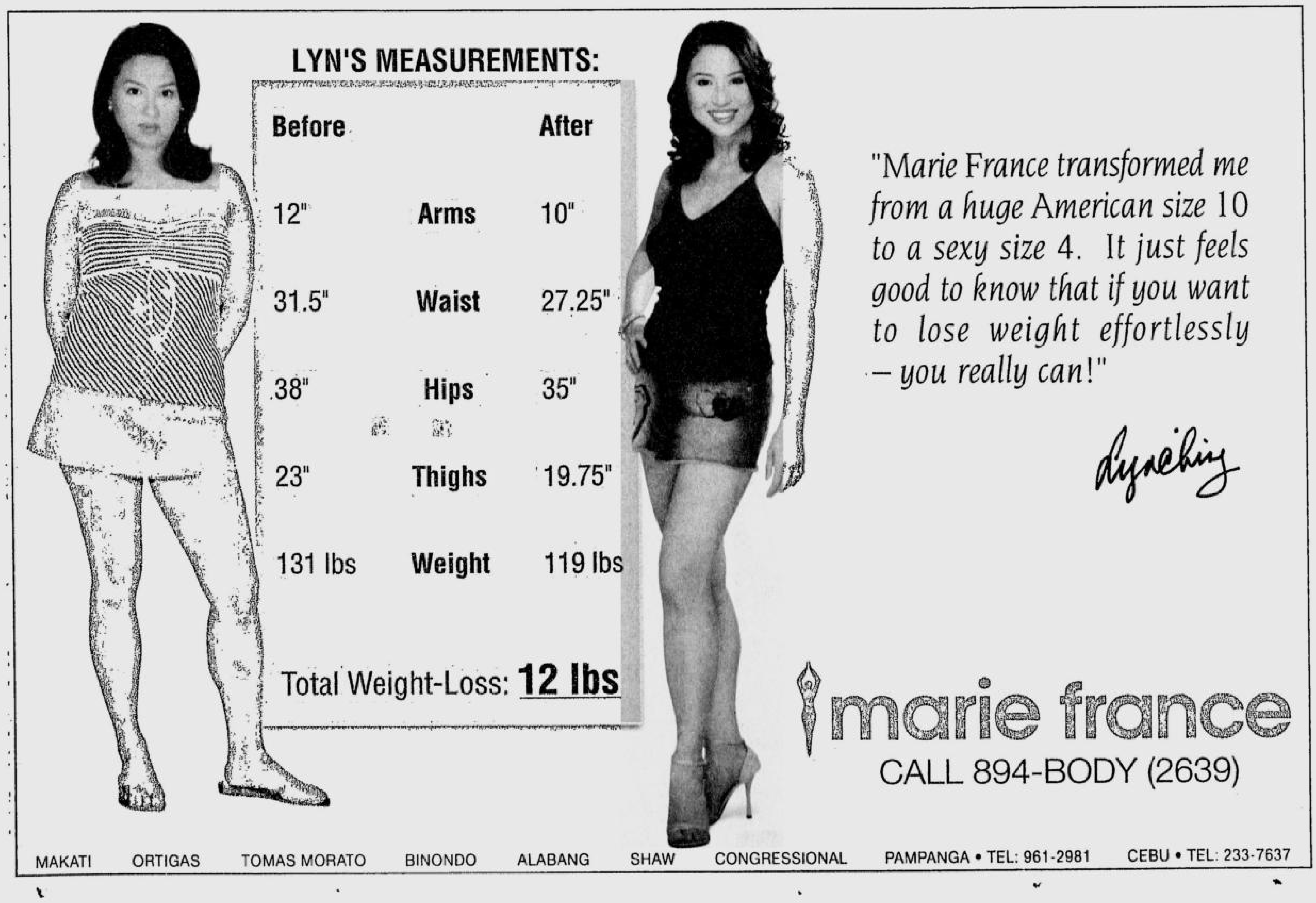

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Dictator's edict gives protesters some hope

From page A1

by the police and more than 20 were hurt, rally organizers said.

BP 880 or the Public Assembly Act was enacted in the 1980s during the regime of the man accused ironically of suppressing civil liberties.

"They can show a copy of the law to the police," CHR chairperson Purificacion Quisumbing said.

She said BP 880 mandated that the local government concerned must act on an application for a rally permit within two days after it was filed.

The CHR guideline may have its first test tomorrow when members of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan plan to march to Malacafiang again.

Deemed granted

With the reported failure of Manila City Hall to act on the application for a rally permit filed by the group last Wednesday, the permit is deemed granted, Quisumbing said.

Leaders of the planned march from the University of Sto. Tomas to Mendiola Bridge can tell the police who may block their path that they have a permit despite the absence of one in black and white, Quisumbing said.

"The law is very clear. It is deemed granted," Quisumbing said.

Officials said an application for a permit could only be denied on grounds of a "clear and present" threat to the public.

Police dispersal

Quisumbing said rally leaders were mandated by law to confer with police during the protest and this would be an opportunity for them to present their argument so they could proceed with their demonstration.

Despite the provisions of BP 880, police have been dispersing demonstrations that are not backed by written permits.

In yesterday's incident, riot police armed with shields pushed back dozens of leftwing activists who tried to reach the Palace.

As they marched, the protesters shouted anti-Arroyo slogans. They also denounced what they said was Ms Arroyo's tough policy against demonstrators.

Action vs something not there

A phalanx of riot policemen forced the protesters back, causing some of them to fall to the ground.

Quisumbing said: "The Constitution and the law are clear that no law should be passed that would curtail the freedoms of speech, of expression and to peacefully assemble."

Commenting on Malacañang's and the Philippine National Police's so-called policy of calibrated preemptive response, she said: "The key word is preemptive. How can you take action against something that still isn't there?"

"The law says there should be clear and present danger [before a public assembly can be curtailed]," she added.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said the militant group had yet to receive a definite answer to its application for a permit.

8 arrested, 20 hurt

"I already called the mayor's office thrice," Reyes said. He said he expected some 2,000 people to attend tomorrow's rally.

In yesterday's confrontation, police arrested Cristina Palabay and Emmy de Jesus of Gabriela, Giovanni Tapang of Agham, Eduardo Verba of Anakpawis and four other unidentified militants.

Besides Ocampo, those who suffered minor injuries included Renato Constantino, Fr. Joe Dizon, Carol Araullo of Bayan, Fernando Hicap of Pamalakaya, Obet de Castro of Bayan Muna and Paolo Oliveros of Bayan, according to Gerry Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer.

Moving against Ocampo

Corpuz said police in plain clothes and blue shirts tried to take Ocampo away but were prevented from doing so by the congressman's guards.

He said the protesters would file criminal charges against the policemen for their "brutal dispersal."

Manila Police Supt. Arturo Paglinawan said the protesters were dispersed because they lacked a rally permit.

"The police were forced to block the protesters because they were becoming unruly," Paglinawan said.

With a report from AP

TOPSY-TURVY. Riot police show another way to subdue the enemy at the protest rally in Mendiola from where the ralliers had hoped to march on Malacañang. REUTERS

'Luisita stocks best model for land reform'

From page A1

empting the deliberations of the PARC chaired by President Arroyo, the highest policy-making body on agrarian reform, on the SDO of Hacienda Luisita next week.

Instead of parceling out and distributing the 5,000-hectare sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino, the SDO gave farm workers and tenants of the hacienda shares in the company managing the plantation. The shares made the farmers part owners of the sugar estate.

But Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman revoked the 16-year-old SDO of Hacienda Luisita Inc. last week because of alleged violations by the company and evidence that the lives of the farmer-beneficiaries had not improved.

PARC has to validate Pangandaman's resolution before the revocation can take effect.

Sugar estates in Negros

Hacienda Luisita represents a fraction of the land now managed by the SDO-structured corporations, nine of which are sugar estates on Negros island in the Visayas, the source said.

He said the government spent P106 billion to acquire and distribute 4.29 million hectares of farmland from 1988 to 2005. DAR has accomplished 83 percent of this target (3.513 million ha as of Dec. 31, 2004), and has been focused on acquiring the remaining 700,000 hectares for CARP coverage.

Some of the remaining agrarian targets, however, are problematic due to unsatisfied landowners or land reform beneficiaries, like the farmers of Hacienda Luisita, the source said.

The revocation of the SDO at Hacienda Luisita, he said, was "ill-timed" because DAR needed to strengthen the rules guiding stock distribution for agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Empty rhetoric

He said the original SDO guidelines were two pages of "empty rhetoric," and a new set of guidelines would have to be issued to protect the other companies with SDOs from the effects of the conflict at Hacienda Luisita.

The current SDO guidelines do not anticipate problems such as market shifts that make SDO-run firms economically unviable, he said.

Like Luisita, the landowner-farmer-tenant relationship in Negros is volatile due to the collapse of the sugar industry, which has rendered sugar estates on the island virtually bankrupt, the source said.

Like Hacienda Luisita, many Negros farmers own shares of stock in sugar estates that are no longer making money due to the industry's collapse.

Non-performing stocks

Revoking Hacienda Luisita's SDO agreement will encourage Negros farmers to seek similar action against their non-performing stocks, the source said.

"I want to save the SDO, and take [new alternative options] but short of canceling the SDO of Hacienda Luisita," he said.

Stricter guidelines

He said an SDO review team, composed of experts from various agencies, would meet on Monday to draft the new guidelines.

PARC is working to ensure the compliance of the 12 other haciendas that had opted for stock distribution in lieu of land distribution, a DAR official said.

The official said the government wanted to make sure that the remaining stock distribution plan (SDO) would benefit the farmers, unlike in the case of Luisita.

"The SDO agreement in the Hacienda Luisita was very lenient, especially with the timetable for distribution of shares," the source said in an interview yesterday.

The SDO covering the Cojuangcos' sugar estate provided for the distribution of stocks to farmer beneficiaries within 30 years, contrary to the DAR's order that stock distribution should be completed within six months.

Validate reports, go to fields

The PARC recognized the need to "go back to the essence of RA 6657, which is to give the country's poor farmers the individual interest and rights over the land they tilled, the source said.

The council is discussing several issues surrounding the stock transfer scheme, including succession rights, sale of stocks, benefits as stockholders and mechanisms to monitor the former landowners' compliance with the agreement.

"The problem is after the approval (of the SDOs), nobody really monitors. They wait until there is a complaint, like in the case of Luisita," the official said.

The source said that with the new guidelines being drafted by the PARC, the DAR would no longer just accept the annual compliance reports from the corporations supervising the SDO but would have to double-check these reports.

"It has been one-sided from the start because the DAR receives only the report from the corporation. Now, DAR personnel will have to go to the field to validate the report," the official said.

The HLI maintains that it had complied with all the requirements of the SDO agreement it signed in 1989, but more than 8,000 farmers had petitioned the DAR to revoke the scheme because of violations in the last 16 years.

Thorough briefing

The source added that SDO proposals would have to give the farmers a thorough briefing on the future value of the land that they are relinquishing for stocks.

The DAR should also ensure that the farmer beneficiaries know how a stock transfer scheme works as a DAR investigating team found out early this year that after almost two decades, the Luisita farmers still did not know what to do with their stock certificates.

There is one other hacienda in Negros Occidental that has a pending application for an SDP before PARC.

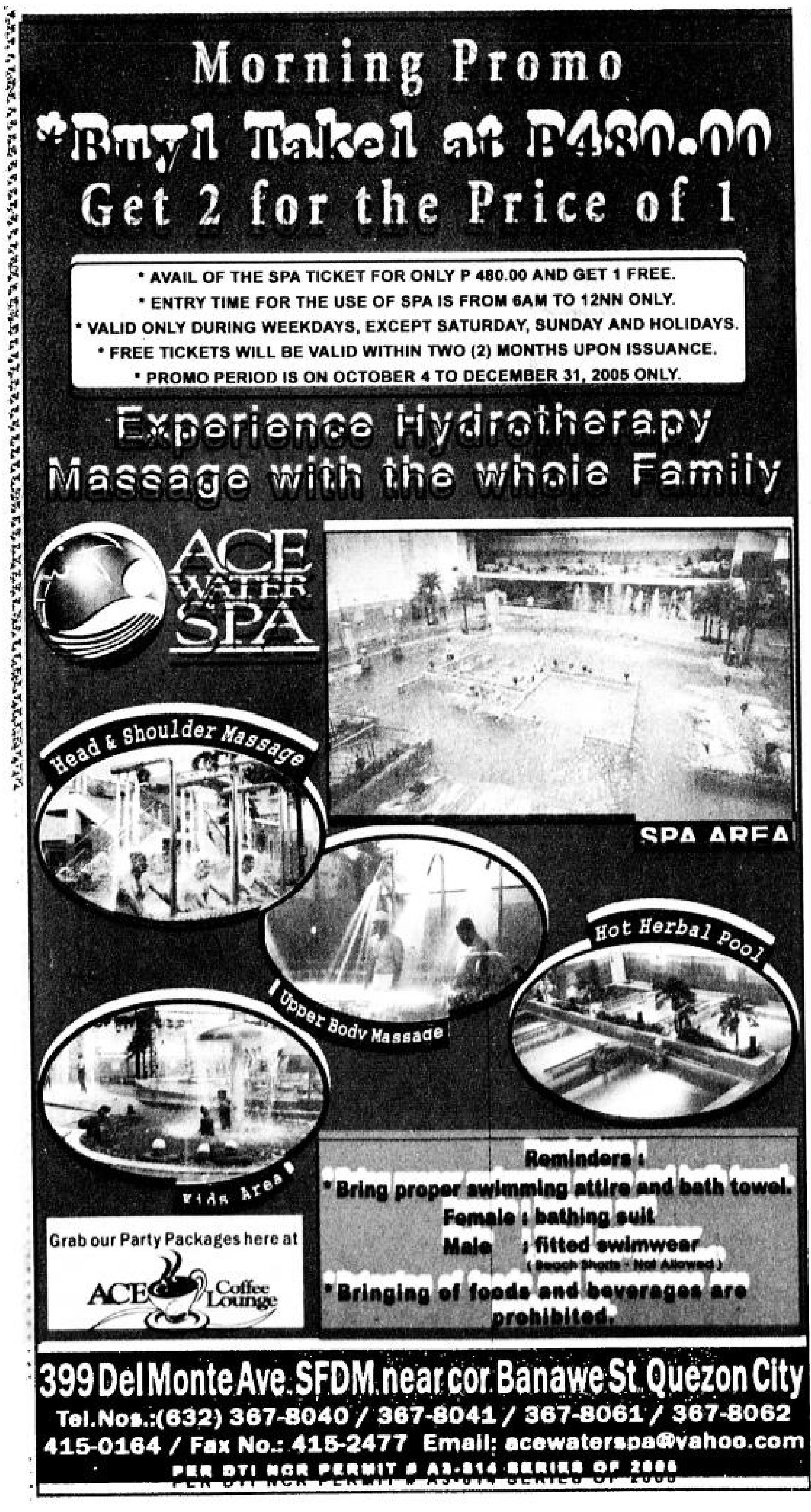
Paradigm shift

Neil Hatton, project director of the DAR's post-land acquisition and distribution [LAD] scenario study, said a paradigm shift had occurred, requiring a change in the country's agrarian reform policies. The study was financed by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Globalization requires the government to make agrarian reform beneficiaries better "businessmen," and not technicians, "to promote stability in rural areas," Hatton said.

The study said DAR would need to seek a legislated extension of CARP, but "prolonging the CARP implementation may be too risky politically [because] subjecting the program to another national regime transition risks budget cuts."

He said the introduction of laws would subvert CARP gains such as the farm-to-collateral bill and the market-assisted land reform program.



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Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 29 ISSUE, A STORY IN THE ENTERTAINMENT section on Page A28—"Rachel's stalker"—erroneously identified one of the ex-boyfriends of singer Rachel Alejandro. The correct name of Alejandro's former boyfriend is Lee Robin Salazar—not Tim Robbins.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 2 issue, a photo caption in the Across the Nation section on Page A14—"Surigao Force"—misstated the province of the elected officials who pledged their support for President Macapagal-Arroyo. The officials are from Surigao del Norte—not Surigao del Sur.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Jon 4:1-11
Gospel:	Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name,
may your kingdom come,
give us each day the kind of bread we need,
and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong,
and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

These four lines reveal the foundation of Jesus' person, strength, mission, relationship to his Father and how we are to be formed in his image. Jesus prays and when he is finished (when he has become the words and desire and hope of his prayer, submitting and handing himself over to his Father) he teaches us how to pray. These are the crucial things: OUR Father...we pray in community to our Father, and Jesus' Father, for his will, his kingdom of justice and peace to come (what Jesus came into the world for). Give us what we need just for today so that we all share and live in communion together, aware of others' need. Forgive us, but only as we forgive one another and stay with us, through it all, even through the last test: death. Is this the way we pray? Does it impact our lives? Does God come first and everyone else with us or does our prayer rattle on with "I, me and I want?" We pray with Jesus to the Father in the power of the Spirit... Our Father... it is as much our discipline of life, as it is the words of our mouth and hearts.

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A SEMINAR ON SIMPLIFIED MEDICAL acupuncture and acupressure—including 10-minute techniques to relieve pain and stress—will be held tomorrow and Friday at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

It will be conducted by Dr. Alfonso T. Lagaya, medical director of Living Life Well Medical Spa and Complementary Alternative Medicine clinic.

Module one, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, will focus on 10-minute techniques to relieve pain and stress from musculo-skeletal disorders like anxiety, chronic fatigue and migraine to specific organ chronic ailments like hypertension, peptic ulcer and bronchial asthma.

Module two on Oct. 7 will provide an overview of traditional Chinese medicine, ancient Filipino healing practices, and the Lagaya Meridian Therapy, covering computer aided Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) diagnosis.

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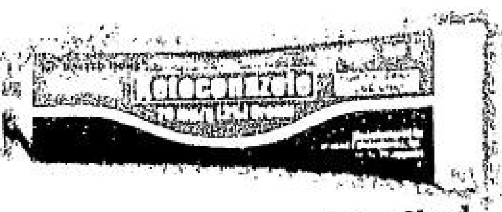

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KALUSUGAN PARA SA BAYAN!

Gov't seeking ways to cut cost of sending money home

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment said yesterday the government was reviewing ways to lessen the cost incurred by overseas Filipino workers in sending money to their families back home.

Speaking in a forum with foreign diplomats, Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said an inter-agency government team was looking into complaints from many OFWs.

"Many of our workers feel they're double charged because when they send their money back to the Philippines, they're first charged at the origin [or host destination], and later, when their [families] pick up the money here, they're [again] charged," she said.

Sto. Tomas stressed this was the reason DOLE and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which lead the inter-agency team, had decided to look for ways to improve the system and lessen the costs for OFWs.

The high cost of remitting money has caused many OFWs to resort to the less secure, though faster, personal delivery system [the so-called *"padala"*] rather than send their money through banks and money-transfer firms.

Recently, it was disclosed that several gambling lords had taken advantage of the system by employing agents abroad to collect and remit OFW money.

Sto. Tomas said that global OFW remittances rose by nearly a billion dollars (21.5 percent), reaching $4.9 billion in the first semester of 2005 from $4 billion for the same period in 2004.

Based on the latest BSP data, the OFWs' remittances to the Philippines also rose to $5.8 billion from January 1 to July 31 from $4.7 billion in the same period in 2004.

Sailor's body still unburied after 2 months

From page A1

interment, fearing his unburied remains might cause an outbreak of disease in the area.

A suicide?

Randy, 34, who worked as a seafarer on a Taiwanese vessel, died on July 27. He reportedly hanged himself while at a Filipino friend's house in Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

His body was brought to the Philippines only on Sept. 29.

Adding to her grief, Susan said, was what she called her harrowing experience at the office of Vice President Noli de Castro, where she said she went in August to seek assistance.

She said she had high hopes of help from De Castro, especially because Randy was also from Pola, Mindoro, the hometown of the Vice President.

Shuttled around?

"I was shuttled around in his office by five lawyers," she said in Filipino. "I was told that Noli supposedly doesn't help illegal workers. And a certain Atty. Sanda Musay even asked me for P500 for telephone calls to the agency in Malaysia where my husband worked."

The Office of the Vice President denied that Musa Sanday [not Sanda Musay as Susan had remembered] had refused to help Susan or asked for P500 from her.

"Mr. Sanday told me himself that he talked to [Randy's] employer on his own account because it was an emergency. He said he has documents he could show to [prove] that he called the employer so that the body could be repatriated," said Dale Zapanta, of the OVP media bureau.

15 years abroad

Zapanta said that Sanday, who is not a lawyer, would not misrepresent himself as one, adding that Sanday had helped "many people who have sought help" from the OVP.

According to Zapanta, Sanday also told her that Susan had not returned to the OVP to follow up on her request and her husband's case.

Susan said that it was the Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA), that had been helping her in her husband's case.

She said her husband, who had worked overseas for 15 years, was directly hired by his employer in Malaysia and admitted that Randy was not under the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration Office (Owwa).

Justice for Randy

But more than anything, she said, she wanted to find justice for Randy, whom she married only in November last year.

Susan believes that Randy did not kill himself but was murdered.

She said Randy called her several times before his death, telling her that he had not been on good terms with his captain and co-workers, all of whom were Taiwanese.

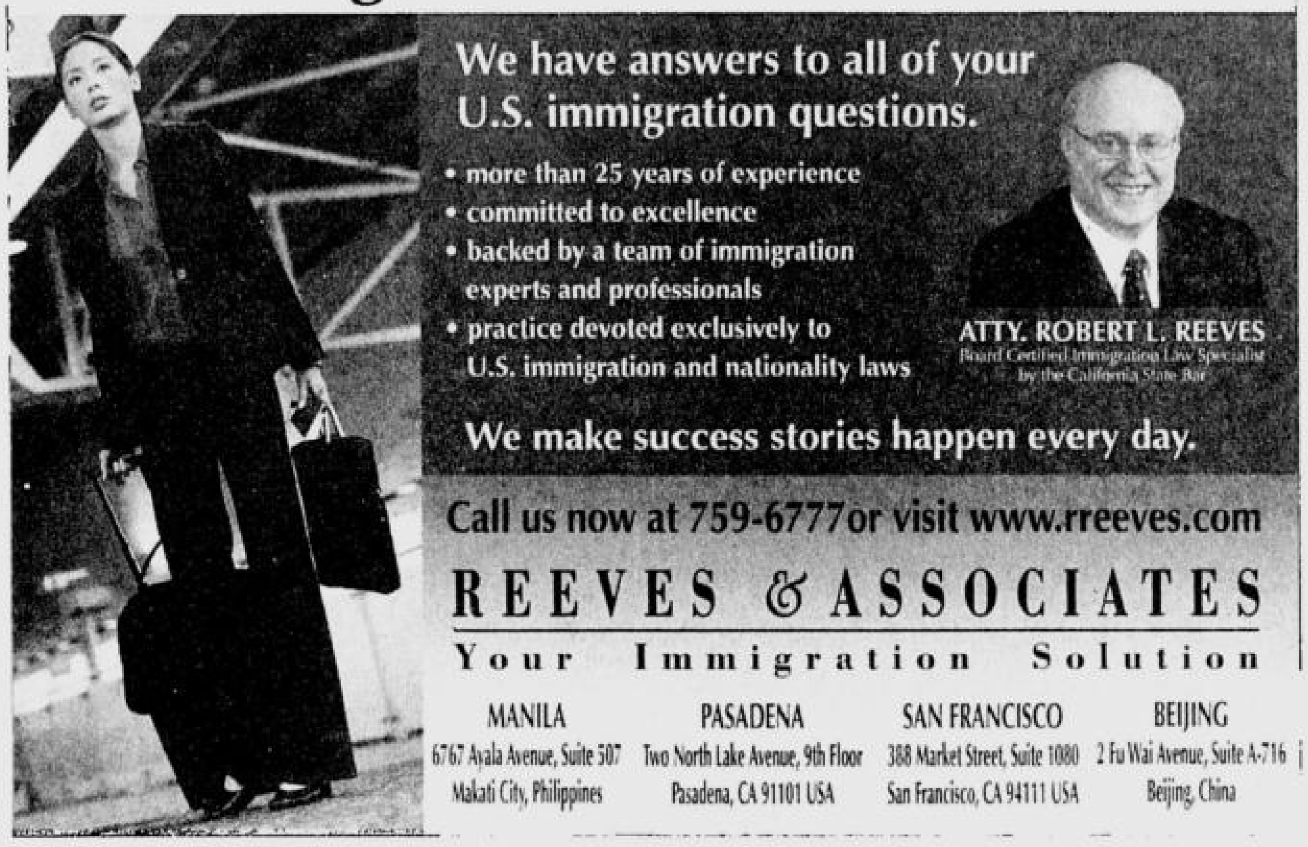
Randy had in fact planned to jump ship in Taiwan and have himself deported back to the Philippines, instead of having to continue working with the Taiwanese crew, she said.

Why cremation?

Curiously, Susan said, her husband's Filipino friend and a representative from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) had suggested that Randy's remains be cremated.

Susan refused.

"According to [Foreign Undersecretary Jose] Brillantes, they are just waiting for the autopsy report on my husband," Susan said.



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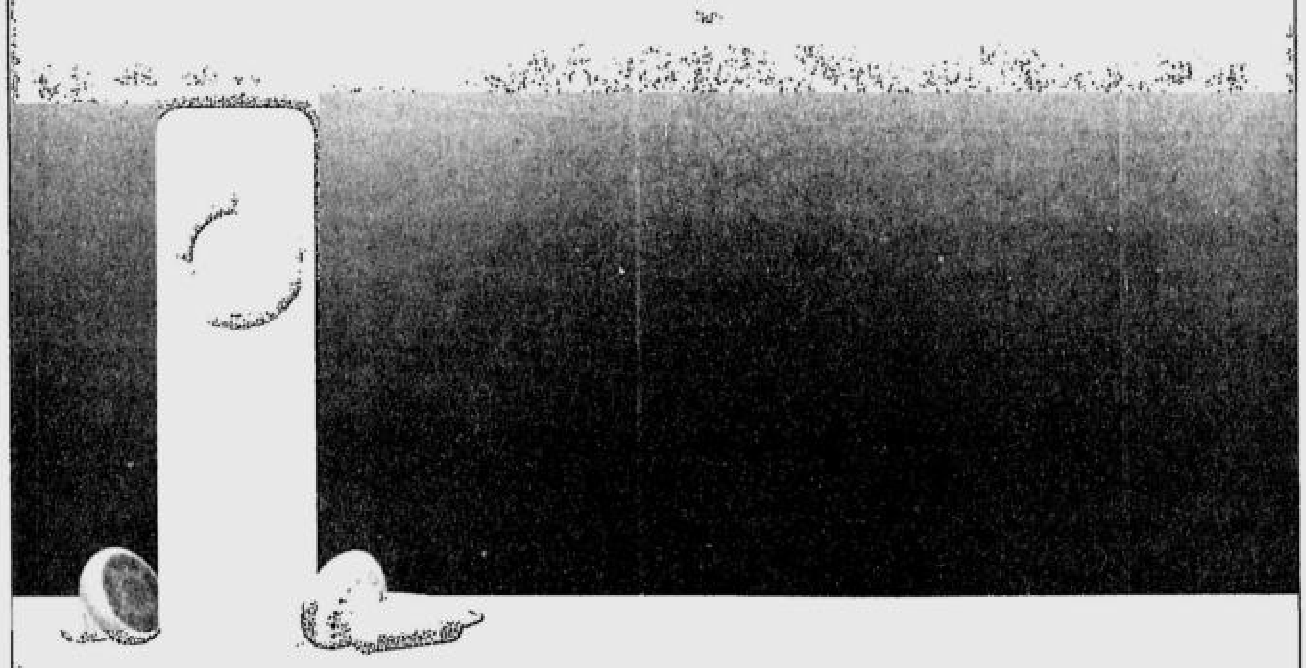

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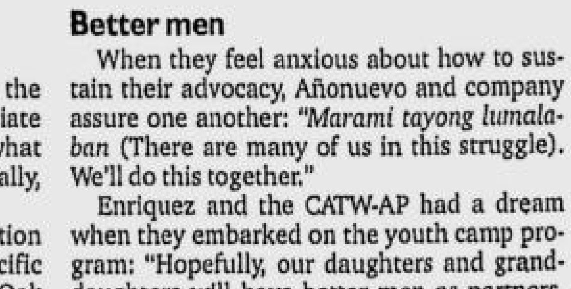

'Sex' camp reconstructs . . .

From page A1

are fighting for people's rights, but we keep patronizing these things," he said, referring to the porn videos and magazines he and his friends used to enjoy.

By the time he spoke before the camp's second batch in October 2004, Añonuevo was describing himself as a "reconstructed male."

'Look into their eyes'

After the camp in May 2004, Añonuevo helped organize a forum on gender inequality and prostitution. It drew around 200 students and faculty members, and the issues were featured prominently in the campus paper, of which he is editor in chief.

Añonuevo also tried to influence his friends on how to better spend their spare time.

When he was asked to join their "gimmicks," he would say: "Don't you pity the women who have to sell their bodies for a living, while we men enjoy ourselves? We don't even care what they feel. If you look into their eyes, you'll realize that not one of them enjoys what she is doing."

When he was told that the women were making money from what they were doing, anyway, he would reply: "If I give you money, does that give me the license to hurt you?"

At times, Añonuevo's words served to persuade his friends to seek other ways of recreation; at other times, they fell flat. But he has learned to respect other people's decisions, and to demand that they respect his.

Asked if he did not find it difficult to resist peer pressure, Añonuevo said: "I'm not afraid to be different."

Transformed man

When Gloria returned from the youth camp in Dumaguete City, he was a transformed man—and his family in Iloilo and his friends told him so.

His refusal to join his friends in their usual forays earns him a lot of ribbing. But he is always quick to grab the chance to explain to them "First Time," a 30-second video showing a young man being initiated in the ways of sex by his *barkada* on his birthday.

In the video, the friends bring the birthday boy a woman for a present. But when he enters the bedroom and turns to the woman, he sees the face of his mother, sister, or girlfriend. Then the voiceover: *"Ang babae hindi binibili* (A woman is not bought)."

Gloria tells his friends: "When you see a woman dancing or being used, how would you feel if that woman is someone from your family?"

Sometimes his friends still seek out prostituted women despite his advice. But there have been more occasions when he was able to convince them to do other things, like play basketball.

Soldier, policeman

Both Gloria and Añonuevo grew up in households with a strong father figure—a retired Army soldier and a retired policeman, respectively.

Fathers and sons occasionally talked about the camp and what the latter had learned from it.

"My father and I had spirited discussions," Añonuevo said.

The father would tell the son of police raids on sex dens and the arrest of the women found there. But the son would tell the father that it was wrong to arrest the women because they were the victims.

Añonuevo said they were somehow able to patch up their differences, with his father conceding the merit of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

That law penalizes the traffickers, including the clients of prostituted women, and protects the women and children victims.

Between 16 and 20

Añonuevo and Gloria are grateful to the youth camp because it made them appreciate women better and convinced them of what they had to do to help others, men especially, embark on a change in attitude.

The camp, organized by the Coalition Against the Trafficking of Women Asia-Pacific (CATW-AP) and funded by the US-based Oak Foundation, seeks to educate men between 16 and 20 on gender issues.

So far, three such camps have been held, each with around 60 young men in attendance. Participants have to be leaders in their schools or communities so they would have the means to share with others what they have learned.

A fourth camp will be held in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 20-22.

Two weekends ago, the CATW-AP gathered several camp "graduates" for a workshop in Quezon City to train them in becoming facilitators in future youth camps.

It was where the INQUIRER met Añonuevo and Gloria.

Role-playing

In the camp, the participants play women's roles—those of their mothers and sisters—as part of gender sensitivity training. They also discuss the levels of violence against women, including domestic violence, rape and prostitution, and the part that men play in these.

A survivor of prostitution tells the camp participants her story.

Different women speak of varying circumstances, but their stories run in the same vein: They were sexually abused as children; they had other jobs—as workers in factories or as maids in households where they were also abused, before they ended up in prostitution.

According to CATW-AP deputy executive director Jean Enriquez, it is this portion of the training that makes the strongest impact on the young men.

"When they go to bars, what they see are glamorous women with made-up faces. So when they hear the prostitution survivor's story, it breaks their hearts," Enriquez said.

"There's a lot of crying during the camps when the men realize how much they have been abusing women."

Men as advocates

Tapping young men to help whittle the demand side of trafficking is a pioneering project, even in the community of nongovernment organizations.

"When you talk of gender issues, of violence against women, men are the enemies. In this project, we are kind to men," Enriquez said, adding:

"Other women's groups wouldn't put money into educating men, but we invest in this because we think this is the right path to take. Men can also be advocates of the campaign against violence against women."

The results are promising. Four young men who attended the first camp served as student facilitators during the second camp. Four took up the topics of prostitution and trafficking for their school theses. Two were speakers in last year's celebration of the International Day of No Prostitution. One made a documentary on prostitution.

The participants have also formed an e-group where they discuss women's issues including prostitution and pornography.

Today, Añonuevo will speak at a forum in Norway organized by Fokus, a resource center on international women's issues.

Educating the young

Enriquez said many groups in other countries had expressed interest in adopting the youth camp project in their own communities.

"In educating the young, we hope to create a new generation of men who will not abuse women and who will be advocates [of women's rights]," she said. "It's not an end-all or be-all, but it's a strategic solution."

Gloria and Añonuevo realize that their battle is not easy.

"It's not an overnight process, but I hope that somehow, [other men] can learn something from us. This is not a personal cause; it's not for my own interest, but for future generations," Gloria said.

Better men

When they feel anxious about how to sustain their advocacy, Añonuevo and company assure one another: *"Marami tayong lumalaban* (There are many of us in this struggle). We'll do this together."

Enriquez and the CATW-AP had a dream when they embarked on the youth camp program: "Hopefully, our daughters and granddaughters will have better men as partners, better men to coexist with in the community."

Gloria, Añonuevo and other young men like them are reason to hope.

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SC orders Senate to present Gonzalez

From page A1

the Venable deal to the senators.

In retaliation, Ms Arroyo banned government and military officials from testifying before congressional hearings, saying that they were nothing more than a continuation of opposition attempts to unseat her.

Palace officials also lambasted the senators for disrespecting the Chief Executive when they were being rude to Gonzales during their questioning.

Dialogue proposal

Gonzales told the Supreme Court his detention was illegal, stressing it was a breach of the doctrine of the separation of powers. He said because of his heart condition he could not say when he could resume his testimony.

Cooler heads in the Senate have intervened, proposing a dialogue with Malacañang.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said Malacañang was open to discussions with the Senate but insisted that the committee should first release Gonzales.

"We demand proof of sincerity before we sit down and talk," Bunye said.

"The perceived rift would not have come this far if some of our legislators simply drew the line between responsible legislation and irresponsible politicking. We have nothing against the Senate as a republican institution but we abhor the fact that this institution is at times used for muckraking in the guise of hearings in aid of legislation," Bunye said

Senators yesterday stood pat on their position not to give in to the Palace demand.

"Malacañang is out of line," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee.

"Secretary Gonzales can't be used as a pawn or as a precondition." The administration maverick said Gonzales' role in the contract with the American lobby firm was not an extension of the impeachment proceedings.

On Sept. 6, the House of Representatives junked the impeachment cases against Ms Arroyo over allegations she stole last year's election.

"If they don't want any dialogue, what can we do? We will just rely on the Supreme Court," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

"Meantime, the monkey wrench of this EO 464 is affecting the functions of the legislators," Biazon said, referring to the executive order Ms Arroyo issued last Wednesday banning official appearances in congressional hearings without her approval.

Bipartisan Senate motion

In an unprecedented move, the Senate yesterday endorsed a bipartisan motion to question the legality of Executive Order No. 464 before the Supreme Court.

"It's not a question of hardening position or not. I continue to believe in dialogue and seeking ways to have smooth relations, but I want to know if I was elected to a Mickey Mouse job or not," said Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, who presented the motion.

The constitutionality of EO 464 had also been raised in three petitions to the high tribunal on Monday by several lawyers' groups.

Crossing party lines, 16 administration and opposition senators approved Roxas' motion authorizing the chamber to file a petition for certiorari against the controversial executive order.

"This is necessary so that the legal relationship between the Senate and the office of the President will be clearly defined, both for the present and the future," said Drilon.

"I think it's important that we as an institution, for the health of democracy, clearly define what this concept of separation of powers means as it relates to what is appropriately subject to the scope of congressional work," Roxas said.

Speaker Jose de Venecia also said that the Senate should first undertake confidence-building measures, like releasing Gonzales from its custody, before he would agree to sit down and talk with Senate President Franklin Drilon about EO 464.

He was reacting to an appeal by 10 senators, led by Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, urging him, Ms Arroyo and Drilon to hold a dialogue over EO 464 and avert a constitutional crisis.

Preconditions unfortunate

Pangilinan called Malacañang's suggestion "unfortunate."

"If you set a condition before a dialogue, then there might not be anything to discuss," he said.

However, Pangilinan said that back-channel talks between some senators, including himself, and emissaries of the President to jump-start the dialogue would continue.

"Business leaders, leaders from local governments have expressed support for the dialogue. They want a constructive dialogue as well," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned that the dialogue would fail unless all parties exhibited sincerity and the Palace dropped its opposition to Senate inquiries into anomalies.

"Different groups that are locked in a dispute should talk with each other. But they must do it with sincerity," he said.

"But if their purpose is to stop the Senate from conducting these investigations, then what's the use of this dialogue?"

Senator Arroyo said the Venable contract was not among the charges in any of the impeachment complaints. He said it was discovered after the House voted overwhelmingly to junk the impeachment charges against Ms Arroyo.

Besides, the matter could not be ignored because it involved a national security issue, he added.

"The national security adviser is mandated to secure the country from foreign interference. Secretary Gonzales did the reverse. He invited foreign influence and he was asked to explain his conduct in the premises," said Arroyo.

Detention 'symbolic'

Arroyo also pointed out the detention of Gonzales for stonewalling was "just symbolic."

"He is not treated as a prisoner because he is not. He is discharging his duties from the hospital, transacts business with officialdom unhampered by any restriction whatsoever," Arroyo said.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, said: "If ever there is a dialogue between the executive and legislative, it would be hard to avoid talking about the validity of EO 464. Wouldn't it be better to wait for the decision of the Supreme Court?"

Claudio also pointed out that it would be difficult to have Drilon sit in the dialogue because "he himself is deeply involved in the controversy." *(See story on Page A1.) With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Suplico to Miriam: I had better grades in bar exams

From page A1

lege speech on Monday attacking those who had criticized her for claiming that an assassination plot on President Macapagal-Arroyo was afoot.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico, Santiago's student at the University of the Philippines College of Law, to whom she said she had given a low grade, pointed out that he did her one better in the bar exams.

"Well, I think I have to thank [Santiago] because she was my law professor... As a result, I think my grade in the bar exam [in 1989] was higher than her grade [in 1969]. That [says] a lot," Suplico said.

Santiago had also said she should have given Suplico a failing grade.

But her ex-student said: "I think she was a good law professor although I cannot recall her performance as my law professor.

"I understand that when [she] took the bar exam, the topnotcher was [now San Juan Rep.] Ronnie Zamora, and Sen. Franklin Drilon was No. 4. She did not place [in the Top 10]."

Suplico also dredged up the fact that one of Santiago's law classmates was lawyer Elly Pamatong, who gained notoriety for scattering metal spikes along Metro Manila highways in June 2004, and even took a swipe at her husband, Narciso Santigo Jr., now one of Ms Arroyo's advisers.

"Among her famous classmates is Elly "Spike Boy" Pamatong. I understand they were seatmates. Her husband was also her classmate [but] I think he is not a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, only a member of the UP Law Alumni Association," Suplico said.

Psychology 101

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales, whom Santiago had derided for not having "passed English 101," or an introductory course in English, said the senator should learn anger management.

"Why doesn't she study Psychology 101?" the party-list representative said, adding:

"She's uptight and very tense, and so she fights everybody—and that's not healthy for her. I was able to talk to her once, and she can be charming if she wants to be.

"I think she is, in a lot of ways, emotionally pressed. She must learn to relax a little more. She must learn to distance herself from the rest of the world and meditate. It seems she's having so many problems with just about everyone—her students, her colleagues, members of the House."

Rosales drew Santiago's ire after she was quoted as calling the senator a "gossiper." She said she had been misquoted, but stood by her statement that Santiago should not spread rumors.

Said Rosales: "She said I should study and enroll in English 101. I had that checked [at the UP] but they said there were only Communications I and II. But they have Psychology 101, and I think she should enroll there.

"She is not a gossiper; she's a gossip. I would like to remind her that [her remarks on the assassination plot] are hearsay statements and, as a senator, she should not use her high position to spread gossip and engage in rumor-mongering because she herself had admitted that she had no basis [to prove] what she had heard.

"She is not just attacking her targets but also insulting the intelligence of the public. *Anong tingin niya sa atin* (What does she think of us)?"

'Mere soldier'

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said Santiago should apologize for dismissing him as a "mere soldier," adding that this could further stoke unrest in the military.

Golez rattled off his credentials, saying he had a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, "graduating with distinction with near straight-A grades in math and English."

He continued: "I have an MBA (master's degree in business administration) from UP, graduating No. 1 in my class. I was MBA professor for three years at UP and a management professor for three years at the Asian Institute of Management.

"And even if I were a 'mere soldier,' what's wrong with that? I would be in good company with more than 100,000 mere soldiers in the [Armed Forces] and several thousand already retired mere soldiers. Miriam better apologize for the slur on the brave Filipino soldiers, lest they mutiny because of her."

Golez observed that on Monday, "two precious Filipinas vied for attention."

"Alas, precious Miriam, in spite of her polemics and vitriol, was no match to [2005 Miss International] Precious Lara [Quigaman], who displayed sweet eloquence," he said.

Golez also suggested that he had some juicy stories to tell about Santiago, as relayed by his relatives in Iloilo, of which the senator is also a native.

"But I can't repeat them because that would be hearsay. Peace to you, *Manang* Miriam," he added.

Shooting herself

Rosales said Santiago's declaration that she would shoot herself in the Senate session hall if her statements constituted "clear and present danger" to the state was nothing new.

"How many times had she said that she would shoot herself?" Rosales said, adding that in 2001, the senator promised to jump from an airplane if then President Joseph Estrada were arrested on plunder charges.

When Estrada was eventually arrested, Santiago famously said: "I lied."

Suplico said he would want to watch the spectacle: "She should tell me what day and time. I haven't seen anyone shoot herself. I'll prepare my cell phone to take a video [of it]."

The militant peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said it was dead-sure that history would be repeated as far as Santiago's shooting herself was concerned.

"We are not really that harsh as to have Senator Santiago shoot herself, but when she is proven wrong, we advise her to commit herself to the mental institution in Mandaluyong City," KMP deputy secretary general Willy Marbella said in a statement.

Marbella also said Santiago's "conspiracy theory to assassinate" the President was "beyond doubt a product not just of a wild imagination but [also] of lunacy."

Laughingstock

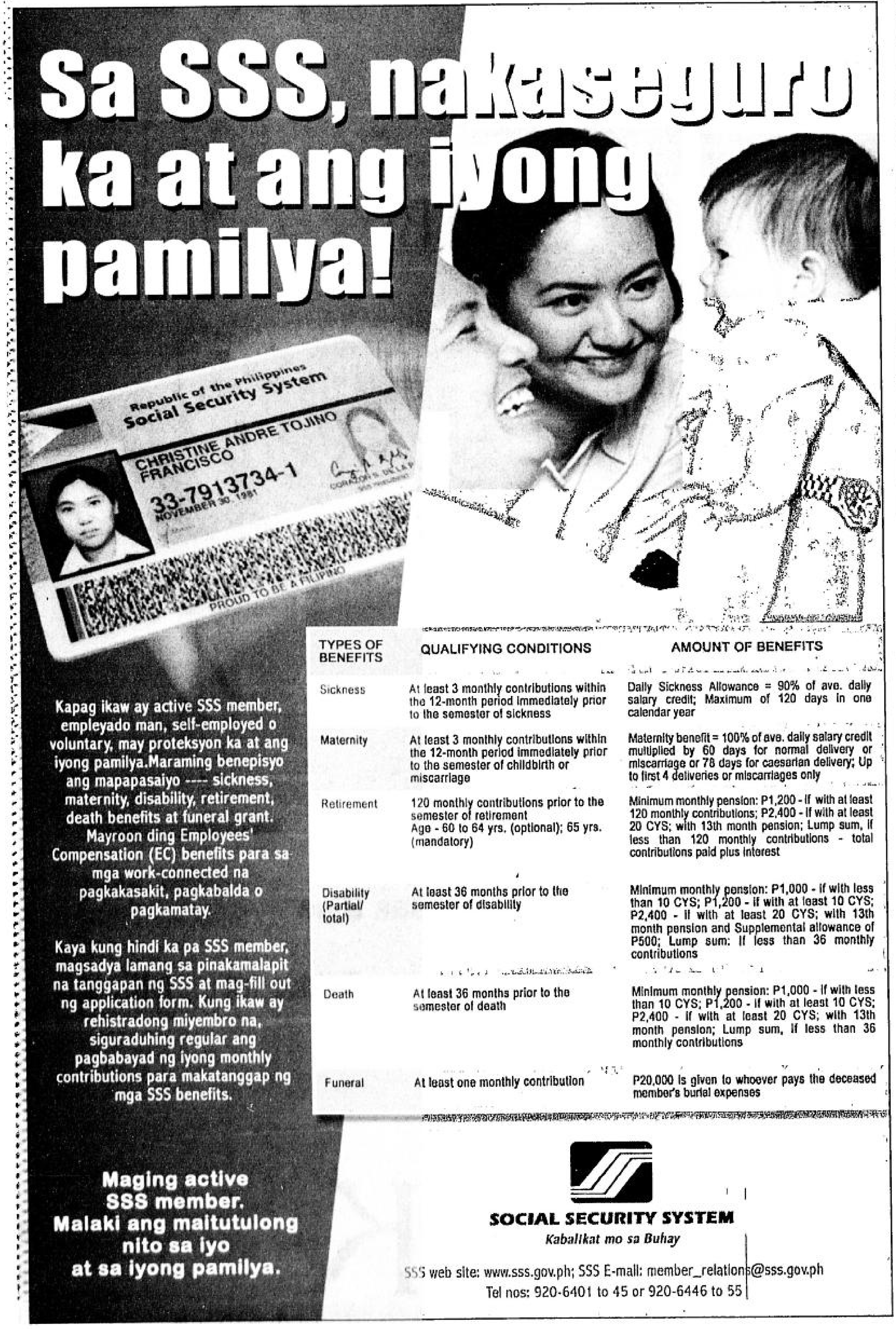
KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said it was time the senator learned to keep her word and to take the public seriously.

"Every utterance is reflective of who and what you are. She cannot just say something and then backtrack when proven wrong. She should be held responsible for her statements," Ramos said.

"Is this how a senator of the Republic of the Philippines should behave?" he said, adding that the likes of Santiago in the Senate were what made Philippine institutions a laughingstock.

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, whom Santiago had described as "a sorry excuse for a scion of a great man," refused to take the senator's bait.

The only son of his martyred father and namesake, Noynoy said Santiago was just trying to divert public attention from the "unanswered" charges of massive corruption and electoral fraud against Ms Arroyo. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*



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SC delays anew verdict on VAT

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DELAYED its ruling on the latest challenge to a broader implementation of the value added tax (VAT), two sources close to the court said yesterday, further setting back the government's most critical fiscal reform.

The justices had been expected to issue a ruling yesterday, with financial markets and government anticipating the court would dismiss several appeals against its decision in September that the law expanding the application of the VAT was constitutional.

"The court is waiting for some more comments from the government and the petitioners," one of the sources told Reuters. The other source said the decision may come next week.

"The delay shouldn't be a major issue for the markets," said Jose Mario Cuyegkeng, economist at ING Bank.

"It's imperative that we have a resolution of the VAT within this year, for 2006. The sooner it is resolved, the better."

The broader VAT, designed to help improve chronically weak revenues and cut debt, ends sales tax exemptions on a wide range of goods and services.

The law allows for the tax rate to rise to 12 percent in January from 10 percent now. It also raises corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years, with the rate to fall to 30 percent in 2010.

The Supreme Court froze the tax measure on July 1, hours after it came into force, as the justices weighed a series of legal motions by the political opposition, petroleum dealers and a provincial governor.

The expanded VAT was expected to deliver an extra P2 billion to P3 billion pesos in monthly revenues this year after taking out the impact of mitigating measures on oil and power, such as reduced import tariffs and the removal of excise taxes.

Even without the broader sales tax, the government expects a budget deficit this year of about P162 billion, below the original target of 180 billion pesos or 3.4 percent of gross domestic product.

Higher non-tax revenues from fees and charges, better tax collection and lower-than-expected interest payments should boost revenues this year, the finance department has said.

But the termination of VAT exemptions on a variety of appears to make life tougher for Filipinos already feeling the pinch from soaring global oil prices, and members of Congress are studying a proposal to delay enforcement of the broader VAT on oil and power until June 2006. *Reuters*

Fugitive German arrested in 'Gapo

By Leila B. Salaverria

A GERMAN WANTED in his homeland for allegedly kidnapping and robbing two compatriots in the Philippines has been arrested by the Bureau of Immigration in Olongapo City on Monday.

Hartmut Eduard Joost, 65, was collared in his office at Baloy Beach, according to BI commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Fernandez said the Interpol in Berlin had asked the bureau's assistance in tracking down the fugitive. He then issued a mission order for the German's arrest.

A local court in Osterholz Scharmbeck, Germany, issued an arrest order for Joost in March, and a European Union arrest warrant was issued in December for his alleged conspiracy with two other Germans, who remain at large, and two NBI agents in abducting and extorting money from a German couple, the bureau said in a statement.

The couple, identified as Wilko and Norly Klauenberg, were abducted in Palawan on Nov. 24, 1994. The suspects reportedly stole cash, jewelry, documents and other personal valuables from them amounting to 25,000 deutschmarks.

Under threat of violence and death, the couple was made to sign several blank sheets of paper which Joost and his cohorts later used to execute the sale of real estate properties owned by the Klauenbergs, the BI statement said.

Joost could not present his passport or any travel document when confronted by immigration agents, and would be deported to Berlin within the next few days for being an undocumented and undesirable alien. *With AP*

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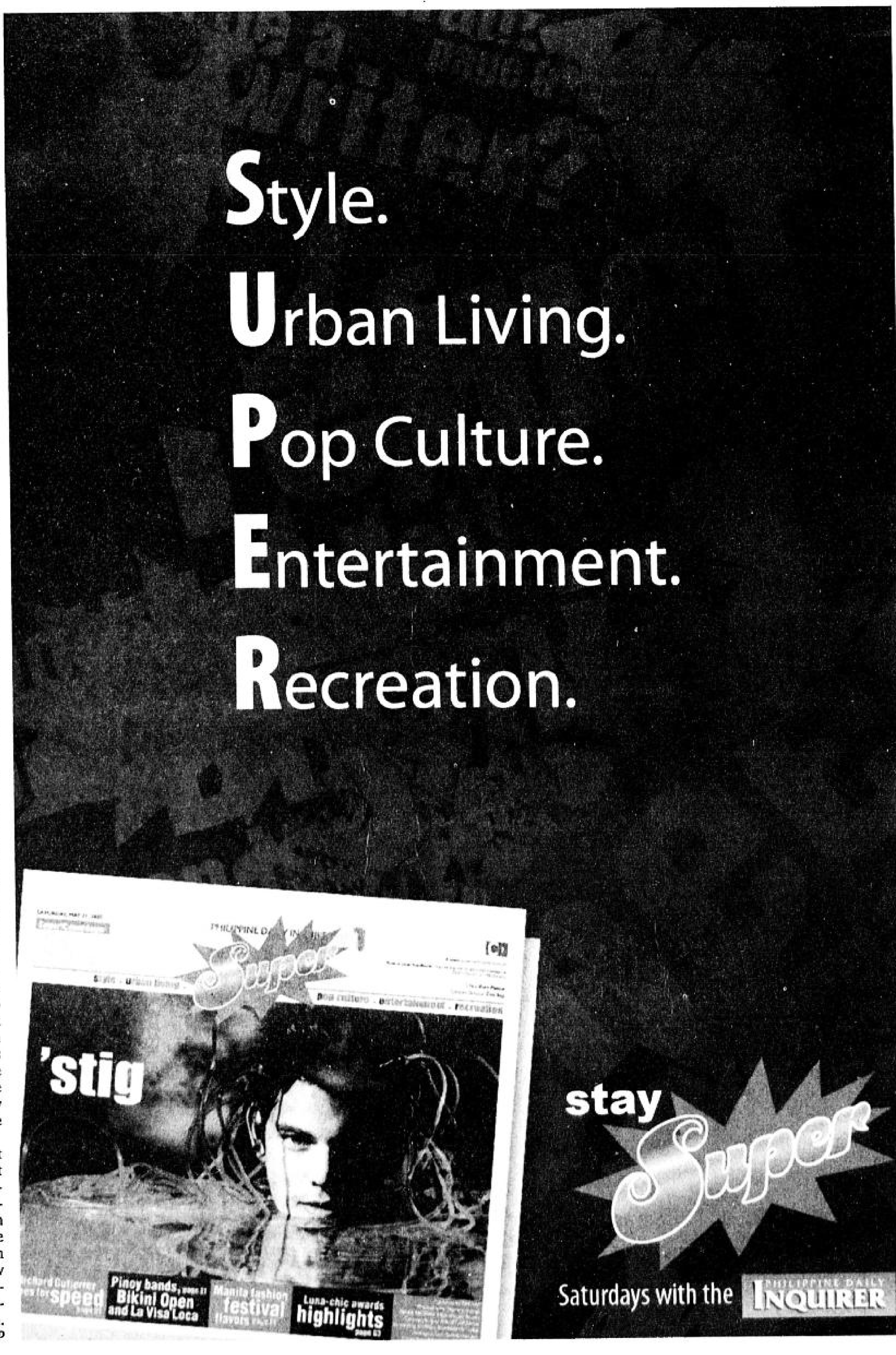

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Parallels seen in Bali, London blasts

BOSTON—THE COMMON TRAVELER'S BACKpack carrying small bombs may now be among the leading threats to world security, experts said on Monday, drawing a link between this weekend's bombings in Bali to those in London in July.

Militants from the United States to Europe and Southeast Asia have used car and truck bombs and even planes to make dramatic statements. But now small, easily made bombs like those used in London appear to be the new trend.

The al-Qaida-linked group at the heart of an Indonesian probe into the three bombs that tore through restaurants packed with Saturday evening diners and killed 22 people likely drew inspiration from the London attack in July, the experts said.

"It shows a shift to small, London-style suicide bombers (like those) in Indonesia from large truck bombs," said Zachary Abuza, an expert on Islamic militancy in Southeast Asia at Boston's Simmons College.

US authorities warned people of threats posed by small, homemade bombs after the July 7 attack in London's transit system that killed 56 people, putting New York on its highest level of alert since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

But much of that security has been rolled back. Police have dismantled checkpoints, scaled back subway patrols and pulled bomb-sniffing dogs off New York commuter trains.

Security experts such as Arnold Howitt of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government said a Bali-style attack involving hard-to-detect bombs would be remarkably easy in the United States. Bomb-making materials are easy to find and security loopholes in restaurants and trains are plentiful.

But he said one element appears missing: suicide bombers.

"The limiting factor in the United States is that the most effective way of carrying out this kind of attack is through suicide bombers and we don't seem to have a supply of indigenous suicide bombers," he said.

Abuza said the simplicity of stuffing bombs into backpacks likely influenced the Bali bombers. Chilling video footage released in Bali late on Sunday showed a man entering a restaurant, followed almost instantly by an explosion.

The attack contrasts with a truck bomb detonated in the Indonesian capital Jakarta near Australia's embassy on Sept. 9, 2004, killing three people, and to a suicide car bomb outside the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta in 2003 that killed 12.

"The shift from large truck bombs to people with a small 5 kg bomb on their back is very significant. To me it says a lot about the resources that they have or don't have.

The truck bombs were very expensive operations," said Abuza.

He said the simplicity made it easier to launch attacks. "I think we're going to see a lot more of this," he added.

Initial investigations into Saturday's attack—the second on Bali since a series of blasts on Oct. 12, 2002, killed 202 people—are focused on Jemaah Islamiah, a network linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, which has been blamed for past bombings in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Australian police involved in the probe said the style of bombs and materials used appeared new to the region. An Indonesian official said they included TNT and ball bearings.

"They are reverting to more simplified weapons usage because they can't mount the big one but they want to stay in the game," said retired US Brig. Gen. Russell Howard, a counter-terrorism expert at Tufts University, who believes Jemaah Islamiah's resources are shrinking.

"It is an admission that they are not as strong as they were. But the simpler form of warfare is easier to prosecute and more difficult to detect," he said. *Reuters*

US mulls $40,000 signing bonus for Army recruits

WASHINGTON—THE US ARMY has fallen more than eight percent short of its recruitment goal for the year, Army officials said Monday, acknowledging a setback for plans to enlarge a force strained by combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army is responding in part by increasing the percentage of prospective recruits with low scores on aptitude tests who qualify for service, officials said.

The Army also wants to offer big increases in enlistment incentives, including signing bonuses of up of $40,000, they said.

"It does have an impact," General Richard Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, said of the recruiting shortfall.

Cody said the Army ended the 2005 fiscal year Sept. 30 with a little more than 73,000 new recruits, well short of its goal of 80,000.

He said the shortfall means that the Army will not be able to increase in size to 502,000 as planned, and instead will lag at around 493,000 to 494,000.

The increase was supposed to give the Army a cushion as it builds 10 new combat brigades and increases the size of its combat force by at least 30,000 troops from 315,000 today.

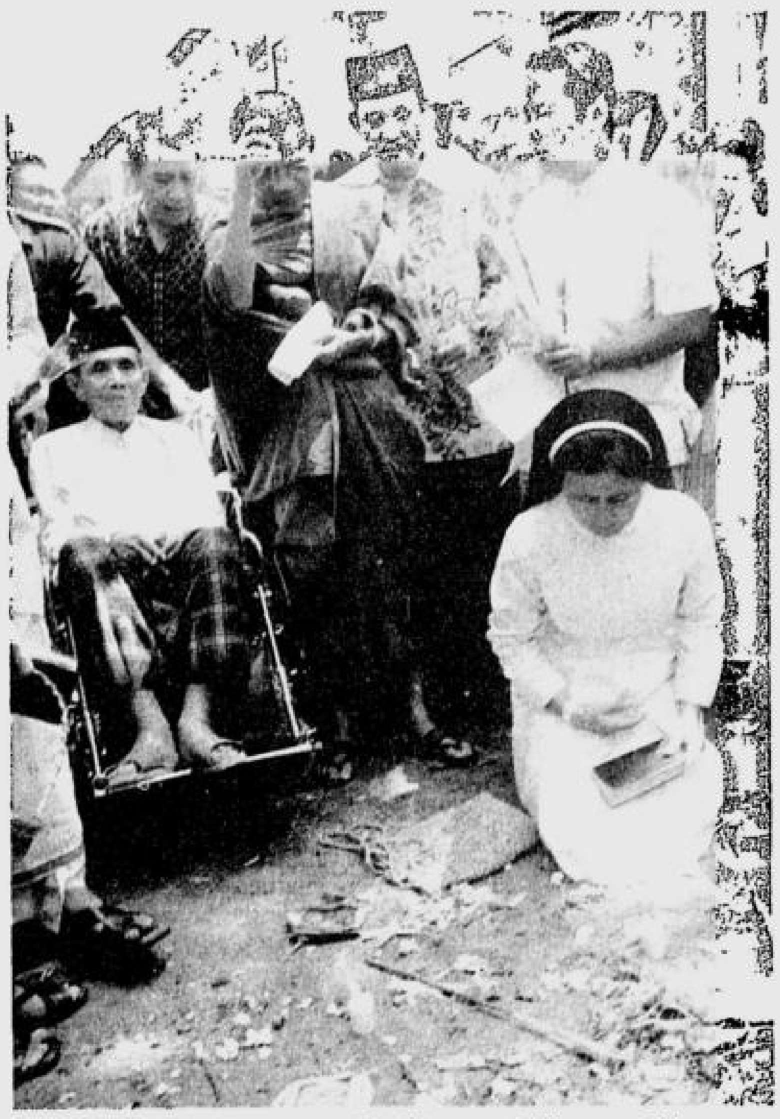
Cody told reporters that even with the recruiting shortfall, the Army remains on track to build those new brigades.

But he said it will require moving more soldiers from the Army bureaucracy into combat units, something that he said needed to be done anyway.

"There are many things to deal with this endstrength issue," he said. "One of them is to rebalance what we have in the institutional Army and continue to move military spaces and faces from that into the operational Army."

Army Secretary Frances Harvey told reporters at a separate press conference that plans call for moving 40,000 soldiers from slots in the Army bureaucracy or service schools to operational units by 2007.

Harvey said the Army is seeking spending authority to make big increases in incentives for prospective recruits to sign up. *AFP*



AN INDONESIAN nun prays with followers of different religions at the site of a bomb blast at Kuta square in Bali on Oct. 4. REUTERS

Bush appoints loyalist to Supreme Court

MIERS

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Monday reached into his inner circle and nominated White House lawyer Harriet Miers for a Supreme Court vacancy, choosing a woman who is not a judge and whose views on major issues are largely unknown.

Many conservatives, who formed the bedrock foundation of Bush's reelection last November, immediately protested the nomination of Miers to replace retiring Sandra Day O'Connor, as a betrayal of his campaign promise to pick conservative judges.

Miers, 60, a longtime political ally of Bush's going back to his days as Texas governor, would be the third woman to serve on the Supreme Court if confirmed by the US Senate.

O'Connor was the first and Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been there since 1993.

Miers, a lawyer in Texas, was named by then-Gov. Bush to the state's lottery commission, and came to the White House for Bush's first term. In 2004 she was promoted to White House counsel when her predecessor Alberto Gonzales became attorney general.

"I believe that senators of both parties will find that Harriet Miers' talent, experience and judicial philosophy make her a superb choice to safeguard the constitutional liberties and equality of all Americans," Bush said in an Oval Office ceremony with Miers.

O'Connor, a moderate conservative, was the key swing vote on a number of 5-4 decisions on the closely divided Supreme Court. Democrats said much was unknown about Miers and that she would undergo intense scrutiny.

In turning to someone who has no record of judicial decisions, Bush could face opposition from many who say she is not the best qualified candidate for the high court.

However, nearly a third of the 109 justices in US history were not judges including Chief Justice William Rehnquist whose death led to John Roberts' elevation to the post. The justices now on the court had all been judges.

The White House noted some Democrats and Republicans had urged Bush to consider the Dallas-born Miers but would give no names. One was Senate Minority leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

"I like Harriet Miers," said Reid, who voted against John Roberts as US chief justice last week. "In my view, the Supreme Court would benefit from the addition of a justice who has real experience as a practicing lawyer." *Reuters*

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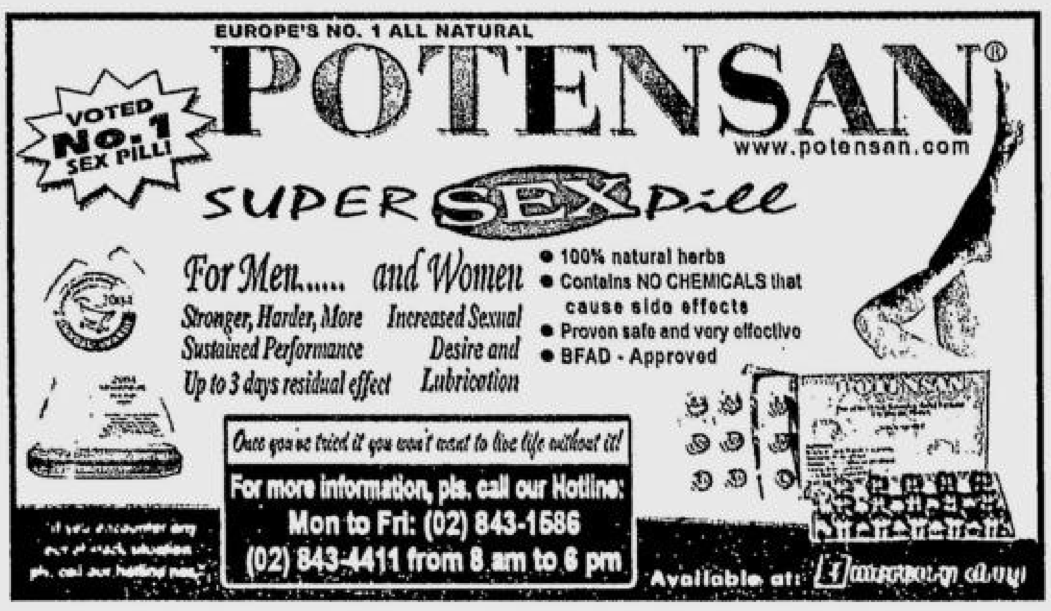

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Search for Katrina victims ends; death toll reaches 964

NEW ORLEANS—THE SEARCH for Hurricane Katrina victims has ended in Louisiana with a death toll at 964, but more searches will be conducted if someone reports seeing a body, a state official said.

State and federal agencies have finished their sweeps through the city, but Kenyon International Emergency Services, the private company hired by the state to remove the bodies, is on call if any other body is found, Bob Johannessen, a spokesperson with the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said Monday.

"There might still be bodies found—for instance, if a house was locked and nobody able to go into it," Johannessen said.

Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said it had completed its role in the search because its specialties were no longer needed, including getting to bodies in attics or other hard-to-reach places or in buildings that may be structurally unsound.

FEMA did nearly 23,000 thorough room-to-room searches in New Orleans with about a dozen teams of emergency workers.

Mississippi's death toll remained at 221.

There were signs of normalcy in the city Monday — five weeks to the day since Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast.

St. Andrew the Apostle elementary school was the first Catholic school reopened in New Orleans. A week ago, residents were allowed to return to the school's Algiers neighborhood of 57,000 people across the Mississippi River that largely escaped flooding.

"My heart is just bursting," said teacher Jewell McCartney, fighting back tears as she welcomed back her class of sixth-graders. "I just want to give them all a hug."

Archdiocese officials said their schools also were reopening in areas outside the city.

Some public schools in nearby parishes also opened Monday, but public schools in New Orleans remain closed. Officials are developing a plan to reopen some by November, depending on environmental, health and safety concerns.

As the halls of St. Andrew sprang back to life, administrators were keenly aware that each student came back with a new set of life experiences — some worse than others.

There also were new faces to welcome. As of Friday, 82 new students had registered and several others were on a waiting list for the school with a normal enrollment of about 800 students.

AP

Vatican synod eyes married men as priests

VATICAN CITY—THE ROMAN Catholic Church may someday have to consider ordaining married men in order to deal with the desperate shortage of priests, according to some participants at a Vatican synod that began its work on Monday.

While the possibility is still far off, the fact that it even surfaced on the synod's first working day was significant because the 1.1 billion member Church is grappling with ways of stemming the shortage in many areas of the world.

In the past few decades, some theologians have proposed the ordination of "viri probati", which is Latin for "tested men". That term is Church shorthand for older, married men with families who are known to lead exemplary personal lives in their communities and have a solid background in Church doctrine.

The topic of ordaining "viri probati" was raised with a question mark over it in a speech by Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice, whose role at the synod is to coordinate and summarize proposals for discussion by the more than 250 members.

"To confront the issue of the shortage of priests, some ...

have put forward the request to ordain married faithful of proven faith and virtue, the so-called 'viri probati,'" he said.

Scola, who read his speech in Latin in the presence of Pope Benedict, did not say which bishops from which countries had suggested discussing the ordination of older married men.

He said the possibility of older married men becoming priests in the future would not detract from the validity of rule of celibacy for those entering the priesthood in the traditional manner at a much younger age.

But Scola indicated to reporters at a news conference afterwards that he was personally opposed to the idea.

Asked about his personal position, he felt the shortage of priests might be confronted by seeking "ways to redistribute the forces (of priests) among the different local churches." The synod's official theme is the Eucharist, the sacrament in which Catholics believe a priest turns bread and wine into Christ's body and blood. Only priests can do this.

But their numbers are falling in western countries -- the United States went from 58,909 in 1975 to 42,528 while the total number of US Catholics rose from 48.7 million to 64.8 million.

Reuters

US forces kill 33 Iraqi rebels in new offensive

BAGHDAD—US FORCES BACKED BY fighter aircraft and helicopter gunships have killed at least 33 rebels since the start of an anti-insurgent sweep in western Iraq on Saturday, according to figures released by the military.

Eight were killed at the start of the offensive in and around the village of Sadah, in the restive Euphrates Valley, near the Syrian border, on Saturday.

Twenty-three were killed on Sunday, most of them in air strikes.

And two died Monday when US forces opened up with mortar fire as they tried to plant a roadside bomb.

US marines reported their own casualties as "light", giving no further details.

The goal of Operation 'Iron Fist' "is to root out Al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists operating within the area and to disrupt insurgent support systems in and around Sadah," the military said in a statement.

The offensive by a force of 1,000 US soldiers "is part of an overall operation called Sayaid (Hunter), which is intended to deny Al-Qaida in Iraq the ability to operate freely in the Euphrates River Valley and to prevent the terrorists from influencing the local population through murder and intimidation," the statement added.

AFP

NY boat accident probed

LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK—A tour boat that capsized on a New York lake, killing 20 people, did not have the required number of crew members aboard, leading state regulators to suspend licenses for all five vessels belonging to the company that operated the tour, officials said.

The Ethan Allen, which overturned Sunday on Lake George while carrying 47 elderly tourists, was required by state boating regulations to have two crew members, Wendy Gibson, spokeswoman for the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, said Monday.

Any commercial boat that carries 21 to 48 passengers must have two crew members, she said.

Authorities have said the only crew member aboard was Capt. Richard Paris.

"If that's the case, there's going to be a problem, and it looks like that's the direction this is headed in," Warren County Sheriff Larry Cleveland said.

Earlier in the day, officials had said state rules allowed for just one crewman for up to 50 passengers.

State regulators originally suspended the licenses for two small boats similar to the Ethan Allen, but Gibson said they had expanded the suspension to include two larger vessels that carry 400 and 200 passengers, compared with the smaller boats that carry between 30 and 50 people.

AP

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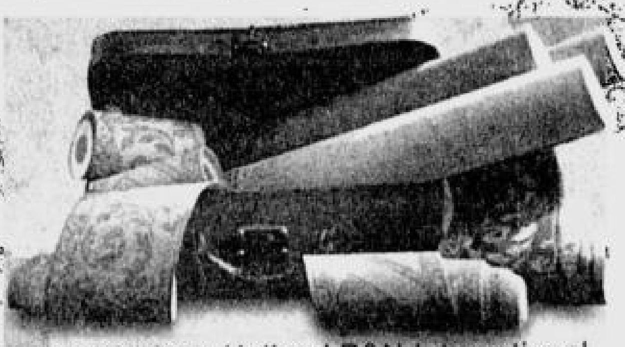

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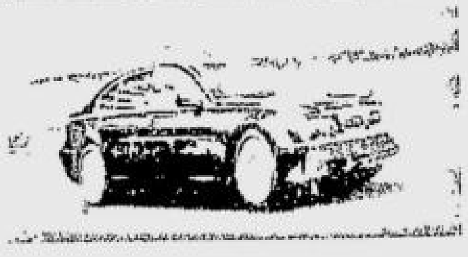

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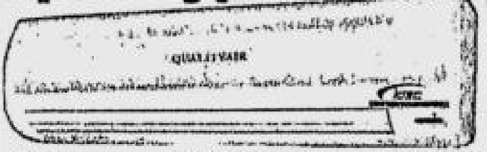

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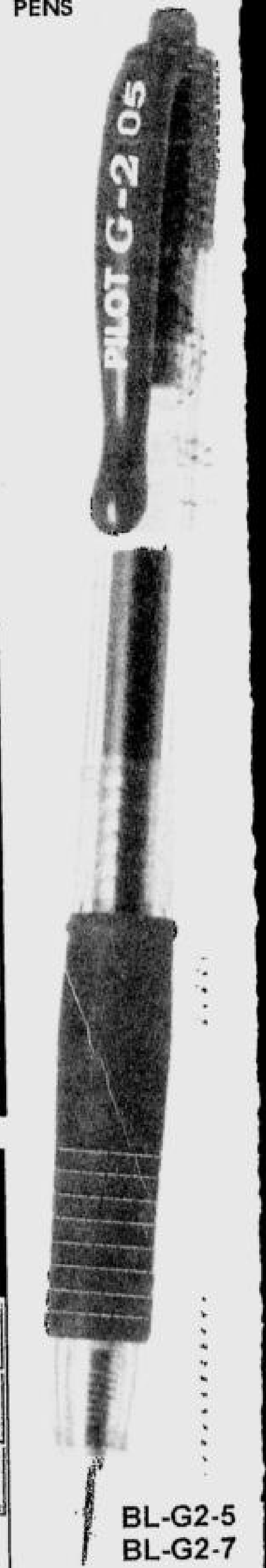

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Australians win Nobel medicine prize for ulcer research

STOCKHOLM—TWO AUSTRALIAN won the Nobel prize for medicine on Monday for showing that a bacterium rather than stress causes stomach inflammation and ulcers, after one of them drank a witches' brew of bacteria to prove the point.

Experts said the discovery of the Helicobacter pylori bacterium by Barry Marshall and Robin Warren in 1982 was met with skepticism by the medical community, which did not think bacteria could survive in the acid conditions of the stomach.

Marshall resorted to drinking a culture of the bacteria to give himself an ulcer and then to treat himself.

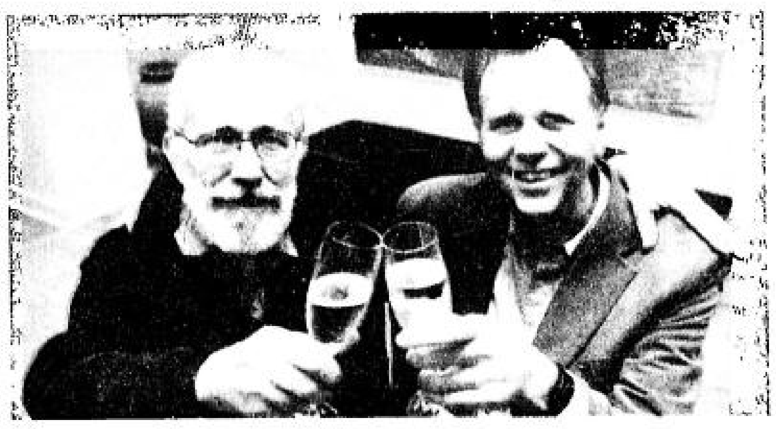
The findings eventually forced drug firms to rethink treatment of a condition that affects millions of people in a market worth billions of dollars.

"Thanks to the pioneering discovery by Marshall and Warren, peptic ulcer disease is no longer a chronic, frequently disabling condition, but a disease that can be cured by a short regimen of antibiotics and acid secretion inhibitors," said the Nobel Assembly of Stockholm's Karolinska Institute.

Warren, 68, and Marshall, 54, share the 10 million crowns ($1.29 million) prize.

Warren said he and Marshall were sitting in a restaurant in Perth, Western Australia, when he got the call from Stockholm telling him they had won the prize.

"I was shocked," Warren was quoted by Swedish news agency TT as saying. "When they first rang, I did not believe that it was true, that it really was the Nobel committee." Lord May of Oxford, president of Britain's Royal Society of leading scientists, said Marshall's "extraordinary act" of becoming his own guinea pig showed outstanding dedication.



Nobel Prize for Medicine winners Robin Warren (left) and Barry Marshall toast their success with a champagne at Swan Berry Cafe in Perth Oct. 3. REUTERS

With some scientists calling their findings "preposterous", Marshall drank a broth of bacteria to show that the presence of H pylori in people with ulcers was no coincidence.

"I planned to give myself an ulcer, then treat myself, to prove that H. pylori can be a pathogen in normal people," he told a scientific review.

"I thought about it for a few weeks, then decided to just do it. Luckily, I only developed a temporary infection." Suffering stomach pain, nausea and vomiting, he underwent an endoscopy which showed the distinctive spiral-shaped E pylori crowding around the inflammation in his stomach. His wife urged him to think of his children and get treatment—which he did.

Warren never believed he would win the prize.

"I thought it was a new and exciting discovery, but I did not believe that it was the type of discovery that one got the Nobel prize for," he was quoted by TT as saying.

Professor Brian Spratt, a molecular microbiologist at Imperial College London, said the two had "a hell of a job" convincing people about their research.

"Drug companies had to radically change their approach from containing ulcers with antacids to treating with antibiotics. Ulcers predispose people to gastric cancer—so antibiotics also prevent cancer," he added.

Australians have been on Nobel Medicine prize-winning teams previously—Sir Howard Florey in 1945, Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet in 1960, Sir John Eccles in 1963 and Peter Doherty in 1996. But this is the first time an all-Australian team has won.

Warren and Marshall were working at the Royal Perth Hospital in Western Australia when they made the H pylori discovery.

Due to their work ulcers are commonly treated with a course of antibiotics, plus drugs to control the production of acid in the stomach or heal any damage done by the ulcer. *Reuters*

EU opens historic talks with Turkey

LUXEMBOURG—THE EUROPEAN UNION opened long-awaited membership talks with Turkey early Tuesday, after the bloc overcame Austrian objections over the terms for the negotiations.

"We have just made history," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told reporters at a joint press conference with EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn and Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul.

After four decades of knocking at Europe's door, EU leaders meeting in December gave the vast Muslim country a date of Oct. 3 to start membership talks.

But they were almost scuppered by Austria's demands that Turkey be offered something other than full EU membership.

"We have taken a historic step," said Gul, who flew in from Ankara at the last minute after Austria's objections to the so-called negotiating framework—the guiding principles of the talks—were overcome.

"Turkey has gotten what she wanted. The full membership perspective is very clear. There is no other alternative," he said. "When the day arrives we will become a full member." The talks are expected to last at least a decade and membership is not technically guaranteed at the end of the process. Public opinion in Europe is largely against the poor, predominantly Muslim country joining.

"We are starting a new era in our relations with Turkey," said Rehn, for his part.

"We have had some challenging weeks and months. Now we have a chance to have a fresh start... and start building a better future for Turkey and Europe." Straw repeatedly stressed that the aim of the talks is full EU membership.

"This is a further key step on the road to full membership," he said, adding: "It will strengthen the European Union. It means now that we are an EU founded on values, not on history.

"Turkey has always been a European country," he said. "We are showing tonight that it's not about religion and religious differences, it's about values." He explained that the ceremony to open the accession negotiations included speeches from him and Rehn followed by a "very constructive opening statement" from Gul. *AFP*

Getty museum offers to return artefacts to Italy

LOS ANGELES—LOS ANGELES' FAMED Getty Museum said Monday it had agreed to return three priceless artefacts to the Italian government in a bid to ward off allegations it knowingly bought looted art treasures.

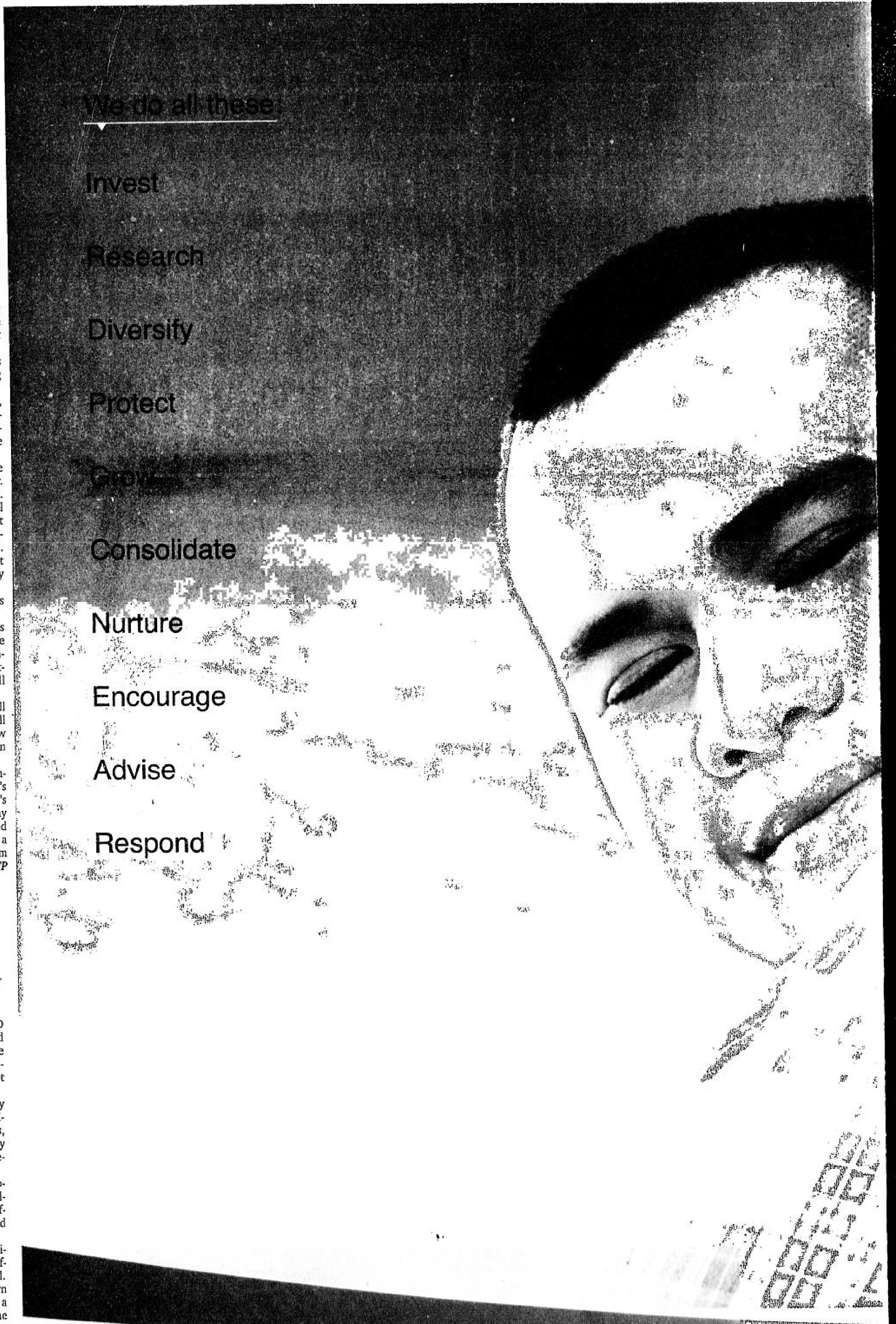
The announcement by the J. Paul Getty Museum, one of the world's richest art institutions, came as its curator of antiquities, Marion True, who has been charged in Italy with conspiring to traffic in stolen works, resigned.

"The Getty has offered to return three objects to the Italian government, and the Italian government has accepted the Getty's offer," the museum said in a statement obtained by AFP.

"Based on public statements of Italian officials, the Getty expects the returns to be effected in the near future," the statement said.

The museum said it had decided to return the three out of 42 items sought by Italy in a bid to settle a forfeiture order issued in the United States at the request of Italy and to show the Getty's good faith.

The items include an ancient Greek krater, or jar, believed to have been painted by Asteas, which Italian authorities allege is stolen property because it was allegedly illegally excavated and exported from Italy. *AFP*



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Schroeder offers to step aside

BERLIN—GERMAN CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schroeder said for the first time Monday that he would be prepared to forfeit his claim to lead the next government in the interest of forming a coalition with the conservatives.

But his Social Democratic Party (SPD) insisted they were not ready to cave in and would attempt to see the charismatic chancellor confirmed for a third term, as the bitter power struggle with his rival Angela Merkel raged on.

As Germany marked the 15th anniversary of its reunification amid one of the worst political crises in its postwar history, Schroeder said he would accept any decision his party made on whether he should insist on continuing as chancellor after an inconclusive general election.

"This is not about my prerogatives and absolutely not about me as a person," Schroeder said ahead of a meeting of his Social Democrats when asked about his and Merkel's competing claims to the chancellery.

"It is about my party's prerogative for political leadership and only the party leaders can decide on that. I will accept any decision. I do not want to stand in the way of a development that allows the continuation of the (economic) reforms I initiated and the formation of a stable government in Germany." But SPD leader Franz Muentefering, a loyal Schroeder ally, said the party had no plans to dump him and would hold their ground, at least until coalition negotiations formally begin.

The Social Democrats had huddled after the final district in Germany voted against them Sunday in a delayed ballot for the general election, widening the lead of Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) in parliament to four seats.

The vote in the eastern city of Dresden was expected to have a psychological impact on the exploratory talks on forming a left-right "grand coalition", last seen in Germany in the late 1960s, and particularly on the burning question of who should be head of government.

The SPD and the conservatives are to meet Wednesday for a third round of talks on whether to begin formal negotiations on a grand coalition.

Merkel has said that the Christian Democrats will not start such negotiations until Schroeder's party has recognized their right to choose the chancellor.

"The result in Dresden has certainly strengthened Angela Merkel's position," CDU general secretary Volker Kauder said Monday. *AFP*

Two young women look at the annular eclipse (upper photo)with special glasses on a beach in Gandia, eastern Spain Monday Oct. 3 AP PHOTO

Thousands watch annular eclipse in Spain, Africa

NAIROBI—FROM NORTHERN PORTUGAL to the heart of Africa crowds gathered Monday on rooftops, hilltops and in city squares for a rare chance to see a spectacular kind of solar eclipse.

In Nairobi, people prayed when the moon masked the sun like a black plate, leaving a bright rim, and in Madrid, people cheered at Spain's first sight of an annular eclipse in more than two centuries.

"It may be a sign of the end of the world or some other great disaster. This is what we believe," said 82-year-old Tigray tribesman Tebared Tsegahun in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"I don't know what you members of the new generation say about it," he said, but "We will keep praying to survive the danger that will come after it."

Most of Ethiopia's 70 million people were not aware the spectacle was coming. An FM radio station announced it a couple of hours before the event—not long enough for the news to spread.

The eclipse traveled along a narrow band across almost half the planet. After a three-and-a-half-hour stretch traversing northern Portugal and Spain, it moved south across mostly deserted parts of Africa, encompassing Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Outside that band, partial eclipses were visible through protective eyewear over most of Europe, the Middle East, India and a large chunk of Africa.

The eclipse started over the North Atlantic at 0841GMT. At 0856GMT, it passed over Madrid for 4 minutes, 11 seconds. At 1031GMT, central Sudan had the event's longest eclipse, lasting 4 minutes, 31 seconds. Next was the coast of southern Somalia at 1110GMT, and the eclipse concluded at sunset over the Indian Ocean at 1220GMT.

For the Iberian peninsula, it was the first chance to see an annular eclipse in 241 years. It won't see another one until 2028.

"It was a beautiful sight. I won't see one again," said 68-year-old Isabel Balset. "I got very emotional and the tears just flowed."

In Madrid, the best place in Europe to see it, families, teenagers with teachers and groups of enthusiasts met at the city's planetarium beneath a cloudless sky and donned protective eyeglasses to watch the eclipse directly or via a giant television screen.

Office workers and school children went to the rooftops as the normally blinding light of the Spanish capital dimmed and the air chilled. People shared the special glasses, and whooped and applauded with excitement.

In the tiny central African nation of Burundi, residents who could not afford to buy protective glasses walked out of their homes and offices in the capital, Bujumbura, poured water into buckets and watched the reflection of the eclipse in the water to avoid harming their eyes.

"It looks like sunset, but it is only midday," said Thadee Ndaruvukanye. "This is a strong sign from God to show us that he is the most powerful."

Traditionally, Burundians believe that an eclipse marks a time when the Earth and heaven are linked—and is considered an omen for great misfortune, including poor harvests, the death of precious cattle, an epidemic or conflict *AP*

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Beyond chatter

EDITORIAL

IN A SPEECH IN MARCH, JOURNALIST MARIA RESSA said: "In the past, there was training going on in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Now it seems the main training ground and refuge of key JI leaders is the southern Philippines." JI, of course, is Jemaah Islamiyah, the terrorist organization that dreams of creating a fundamentalist Islamic state comprising Malaysia, Indonesia and Mindanao, and which has been actively courting—and even striving to coopt, in the view of intelligence analysts—the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

In early September, Jonathan Ross Harrington (an intelligence and terrorism analyst) wrote in Asia Times: "In the Philippines, the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front], which historically teases the government with sentiments of peace, looks as though it may be serious this time. The organization's strategic agenda had certainly been hijacked in past years by ... forces outside the organization, but considering that the Moro's real grievances rest with the Philippine government and not the wider enemy of Muslim apostates ...there is no long-term basis for alignment with JI. April witnessed a resolution to the critical issue of ancestral lands ... meanwhile, the MILF has recently denounced JI... So what does this mean for an already disjointed Jemaah Islamiyah? As International Crisis Group Asia Director and JI expert Sidney Jones observes, internal fracturing due to disagreements over strategic intent and the utility of Bali-style terrorist attacks against Western interests is dividing the organization."

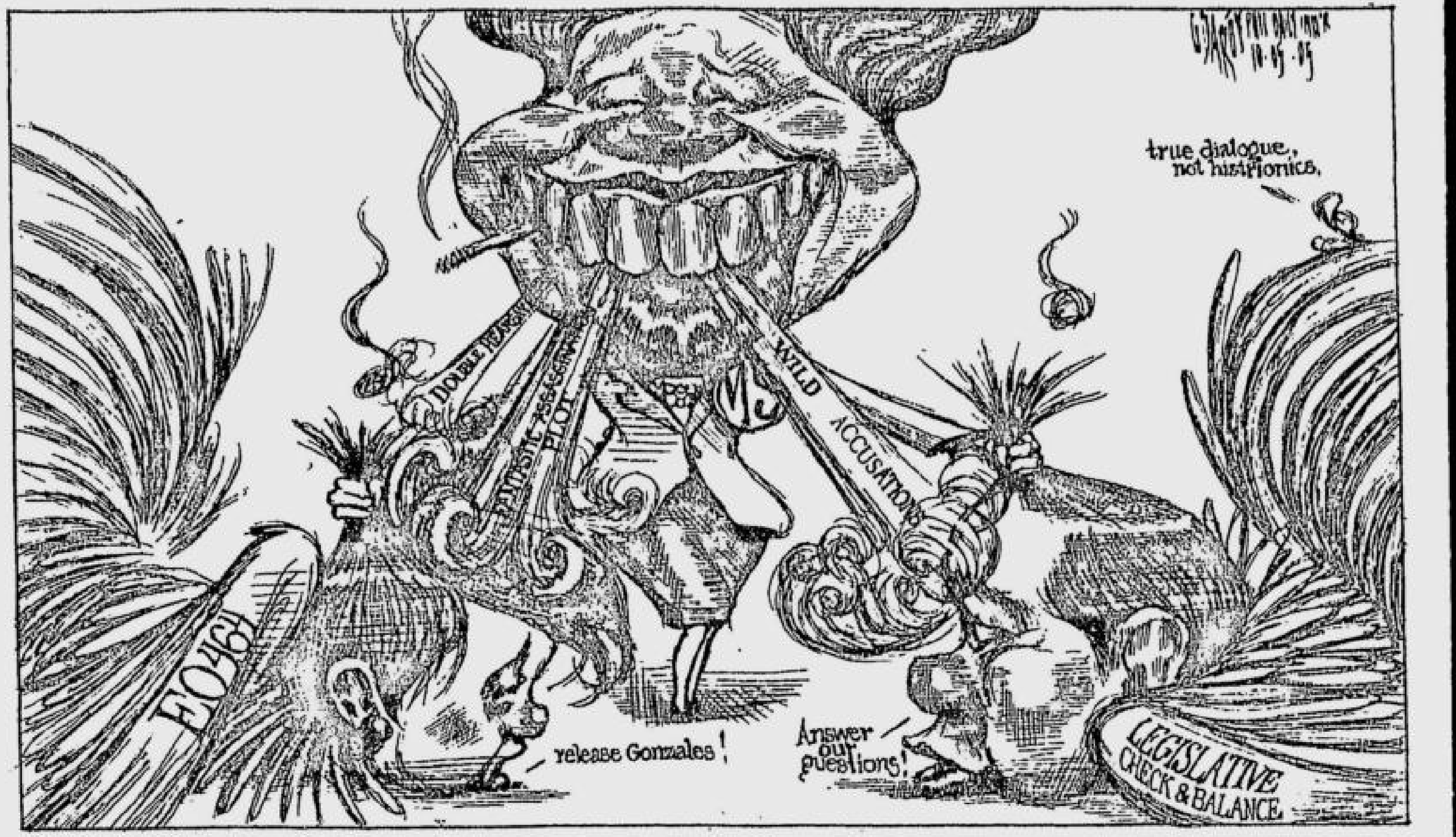
Then, last Saturday, at least 26 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded in coordinated bombing attacks that once more sowed fear and terror, and resulted in tragedy in Bali, Indonesia. The new Bali attacks are believed to have been the handiwork of Asia's most-wanted extremists, Azahari Husin and Noordin Top. These two terrorists have been identified by The Australian as having been "central to Indonesia's three most recent terrorist attacks: the 2002 Bali bombings, which killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, the 2003 blast at Jakarta's Marriott Hotel and the bombing of the Australian Embassy."

Our own military has weighed in with its own information.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP public information office chief, says both the AFP and the PNP are working with their foreign counterparts to neutralize the JI and the Abu Sayyaf. This foreign cooperation is not only crucial, but timely. A report in the Basque News and Information Channel suggests that security forces in our region "got the first inkling that belt bombs were being considered [as a means for terrorist bombings] when three Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah suspects and a Filipino from another militant group were arrested last December in the southern Philippines. They were carrying training manuals on the use of belt and pipe bombs. The Indonesians were on their way to a camp where Indonesian recruits were being trained, the official said." The report quotes an anonymous Filipino "anti-terrorism official" as saying, "It's relatively new in Southeast Asia if it was a belt bomb."

Ressa in recent days has extensively reported on what she has been saying not only since March, but even before, with the publication of her book on terrorism in our region. And as we have been exhorting the PNP and the AFP for years, the threat of terrorism, grislier and more relentless with every manifestation both at home and abroad, deserves not just red alerts, but consistent action. If Ressa can document the network of training camps and allied groupings, not to mention the travels of individual agents and teachers, who go to, and from, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, where they secure not only a place of refuge and training, and even their actual bomb-making equipment and other ordinance, then the AFP knows just as well what's going on.

Reports from journalists such as Ressa are specific as to the provinces, even mountains and sometimes barangays, where foreign and Filipino fundamentalist terrorists live and train. Right now, Filipinos, along with the world continue to recoil in horror and grieve for the victims of the latest Bali bombing. But no Filipino, we are sure, can prevent a constant questioning in his mind, as to his own safety, particularly with news of a world-wide Ramadan offensive by al-Qaida oriented and allied groups.



Showdown at Kapihan sa Manila corral

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE TWO ELECTION LAWYERS OF VICE presidential rivals Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda had a face-to-face confrontation at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. Romulo Makalintal is the lawyer of Vice President De Castro, and Sixto Brillantes is the lawyer of former Senator Legarda, who has filed an election protest against the former. The two are good friends and are, in fact, "*kumpare*." But they squared off at the Kapihan last Monday and it was enlightening and fun to watch them refuting each other's arguments on alleged cheating in the 2004 elections.

After the confrontation, they were friends again and they sat together for coffee and exchanged jokes and banter with newsmen. At yesterday's hearing at the Comelec, they were collaborating counsels for a candidate in an election protest in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) against Rufus Rodriguez, formerly a collaborating counsel of Brillantes for Fernando Poe Jr. and now representing the other party in the ARMM poll case. But last Monday, they were legal eagles on opposite sides of the De Castro-Legarda contest.

The Legarda camp claimed that the administration had launched last year a new way of cheating, different from what was done before. The cheaters, according to the protesters, simply disregarded the ballots and did not even bother to count the votes. Instead, they just made substitute Election Returns in advance and these were totaled to make up the Statements of Votes and Certificates of Canvass that were then counted by the Comelec and Congress to determine the winners.

"Fantastic! Incredible! Unbelievable!" protested Makalintal. He said that one set of election returns in the 2004 polls consists of 56 sheets: 7 copies each of 3 pages allotted for national candidates and 5 pages allotted for local candidates. It would take at least 10 minutes to manufacture all the entries in one complete election return, he pointed out.

"Since Ms Legarda claims that at least 32,000 returns were fabricated, with only one person making it, such a person needs 320,000 minutes or 5,333 hours or 222 days or almost a year to finish fabricating 32,000 returns," Makalintal said. "And this fabrication cannot be made before an election because he has to determine first how many voters actually voted, and how many votes he has to credit a candidate to assure victory to his principal."

Makalintal misunderstood the arguments of the Legarda camp. It did not say only one person fabricated all 30,000 election returns. On the contrary, it said that a professional team of 200 made them in two places in Metro Manila, one in a hotel near Edsa.

These spurious ERs can easily be compared with the number of votes in the ballot boxes stored in the House of Representatives, Brillantes said. The trouble is, some ballot boxes are missing.

"Uncalled for and an insult to the integrity of the House," said Makalintal. "We never heard of any complaint from Ms Legarda or her political party when these ballot boxes were delivered to Congress. We never heard Ms Legarda present any document to prove her claim that there were 200 ballot boxes containing the returns of the provinces subject of her protest, except her claim that there were only 53 ballot boxes retrieved from the House."

Brillantes countered that the estimate of 200 ballot boxes was made by them and a representative of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, based on the number of sheets of election returns (56 sheets per ER) that would fit into one ballot box. Normally, the ERs for one precinct is put into one ballot box. And there are certainly more than 200 precincts with contested returns.

What's more, the six other copies of ERs that went to the Comelec, Namfrel and other political parties are not available, Brillantes added. Only our (the oppositions') copies exist, but the De Castro camp would surely dismiss them as self-serving, he said.

That was why Segundo Tabayoyong's (the documents experts who is Legarda's principal witness) house was raided by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to seize his election documents. When they found that they were only "Xeroxed" copies and that the originals were safe, they returned the documents, Brillantes said.

If the ERs were fabricated as you claim, he was asked, then all seven copies would agree with one another.

"There were two types of cheating," Brillantes replied. "One was the fabricated ERs, the other was the usual *dagdag-bawas*. We will show how they were done."

On the possibility of also counting the presidential votes to resolve with finality doubts on the legitimacy of GMA's presidency, Makalintal insisted on the technicality that GMA's proclamation can no longer be questioned in any forum. The period to file any protest has long expired.

Brillantes countered that the PET can reopen it if it uses its "judicial statesmanship," as Fr. Joaquin Bernas has suggested, to resolve this issue that is ripping the nation apart. But even if it doesn't, we can prove that GMA cheated.

"If we prove that Noli cheated, it would be hard to believe that GMA didn't cheat. It stands to reason that their party or operators would cheat for both of them."

But here's an interesting note: When the Legarda camp asked for "Xeroxed" copies of the Comelec copies of the ERs, it sent copies with the votes for president blocked out. Why? Are they ashamed of the votes for GMA and FPJ? Or are they afraid that they would show that both the administration's presidential and vice presidential candidates cheated?

Where can I sign?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TO BEGIN WITH, I DON'T KNOW WHY ANYone in her right mind would want to believe someone who isn't. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's (there must be something to the name Defensor that induces mental instability) capacity to discern subversion and similar concepts she showed dramatically some years ago during the failed "Edsa III" revolt. If I recall right, she was one of those who openly goaded the crowd that gathered at the Shrine some months after Erap was overthrown to "*sugod*" Malacañang. The crowd did *sugod* Malacañang, some poor bastard or other getting shot and killed in the process. But Miriam would later deny she was responsible for any of it.

Indeed, if I recall right, after the bloody riots in Mendiola had been quelled, she sat before her desk at home in plain view of the cameras, daring the authorities to arrest her. Just to make her defiance more dramatic, she laid a gun on the desk, vowing to resist any such attempt. I do know some people who whispered fervently, "Please, please, resist." I do know some others who prayed for the Holy Spirit to inspire her to aim the pistol at her head. Alas, either the Holy Spirit was too busy that day or It drew the line at taking possession of some minds. Alas as well, GMA was too scared to make new enemies and just agreed to find her innocent.

Neither she nor Juan Ponce Enrile, who also openly called for the storming of Malacañang, ever got charged for it. Indeed, both of them ended up not just not calling for Malacañang to be stormed again, both of them ended up calling for Malacañang to be defended in the event that it is.

Quite apart from that, isn't a story based on someone "chattering away" the worst possible hearsay? Not to speak, in this case, of a physical impossibility, someone being able to chatter away while Miriam is there—she'd be lucky to get a word in edgewise.

I know that Miriam's PRO asked me some weeks ago to stop attacking her person and concentrate on her ideas. My problem with that is the same one I had with Manuel Morato many years ago: What ideas? In their cases, the person is the idea, or lack of it. In fact, while on this subject, one would imagine that anyone who has had one of her kids decide to depart this world ahead of schedule would think twice before lecturing others on how to comport themselves. I did say then that I thought Miriam's political career was over after that. I should have known-stranger things have happened in this country.

Ignacio Bunye adds to the insanity. "What we are saying is, based on his actuations and antecedent events, the Senate President (Franklin Drilon) is involved in the destabilization plot against the Arroyo administration. I can only conclude that Drilon had a premeditated plot versus the President." Specifically, these "actuations" consist of Drilon apparently convincing GMA's legal team last July to get GMA to apologize publicly for the "Hello Garci" tape. GMA agreed, and shortly thereafter Drilon joined the chorus asking her to resign.

I agree that smacks of treachery, if not deviousness—from GMA's viewpoint. From the public viewpoint, it can only smack of poetic justice, liars getting their just desserts. I myself regard Drilon and Dinky et al.'s effort to get GMA to apologize for "calling up a Comelec official" during the counting of votes as their biggest contribution to this nation, if an unwitting one. Of course, they did it because they thought it would at least blunt the public outrage and at most earn some sympathy for their favorite non-President. Just days before they asked GMA to resign, Drilon was offering GMA refuge in his favorite province if she should be besieged (poor Ilonggos!), and Dinky w singing her favorite song, "If We Hold On T gether," with the Palace Glee Club (the gl would disappear from their faces next day Those images will continue to haunt them, b ing displays of obsequiousness over and abo the call of lackey-ness.

Is the capacity for treachery a telltale sign being a coup plotter? Maybe. But that is n the startling aspect of Bunye's statemen Clearly, it did not occur to him that he was i dicting his boss far more than Drilon with What is he saying, that GMA has no mind her own, that she is *uto-uto*, or feeblemind she can only follow the advice of her adviser If she was innocent, why on earth would s agree to accept anyone's advice and apologi for the "Hello Garci" tape? All she had to was put her foot down and say: "I never call up Garci. I never plotted with him to steal t votes. Let them howl all they want. I am inn cent. I am not sorry."

The fact that GMA accepted Drilon's advi does not reflect on his deviousness, it refle on her guilt. The fact that Drilon bolted fro GMA afterwards does not reflect on his lack loyalty, it reflects on her lack of honesty.

I do not know if Drilon, or Cory, or both, hatching a coup against GMA. I do not care. I all I know, they could be doing so, but what it? Only GMA and her ilk will see it as a coup. far as I know, a coup is the overthrow of a du constituted authority by force. The current go ernment is not a duly constituted one. It is a d ly constituted one, composed of people w sharp appetites and dull morals. I agree co pletely with the posters I see all over Metro M nia that scream, "Stop the takeover of gover ment! No to a dictatorship! Yes to democrac That is what Drilon and Cory are doing, if deed they are the ringleaders of a plot to o GMA. They are ending the takeover of gover ment, if not stopping it. They are saying no dictatorship. They are saying yes to democrac

Please direct me to the nearest recruiti station. I'd like to sign up

The troublesome verbs

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

THE OLD GRAMMARIAN IN ME HAS LONG wanted to write this column. I almost did when my "those who have sunk their paws into private and public coffers . . ." was "corrected" to "sank." My heart sank, but I passed that off as a typo. I almost did again after Conrad de Quiros' "Grammatical deaths" (Jan. 3, 2002) but sloth overtook me. My favorite newspaper's "lapse in grammar" last July 10 finally did it. Besides, English is now a must for national survival. And in this despairing political climate, I felt like "gimme-a-break." So let's laugh and learn from some actual grammatical lapses, or typos if you will. Even the best news writers commit them.

Especially treacherous are those look-alike verbs aptly called the "troublesome verbs," whose four principal forms or parts (from which all the tenses of verbs are formed) we memorized and recited like parrots and for good reason:

Lie-lied-lying-lied (what many politicians habitually do)

Lie-lay-lying-lain (as when we rest or recline)

Lay-laid-laying-laid (usually taking an object as in laying eggs, blame or claim). Caveat: usage changes and the second lie and lay are sometimes interchanged orally. Writing is stricter.

In view of the foregoing, smile or wince over the following: "Body arrives on Sunday, May 7, 2000 and will lay in state at his hometown . . . ." "When you lay on your deathbed, it won't matter how much money you have." "Once upon a time, business people had some loose change laying around the house. It could have been laying around the toilet." ". . . the first thing that came to my mind as I laid on the ground and felt my gums bleeding was, 'Corona Ko!.'" And here are two captions: "Carolyn P . . . practices laying on a bed of nails . . . ." and "... the President's fate may lay in the hands of Chief Justice Davide;" and a top-of-the-page news head: "Beleaguered Pop Star Lays Low." At my irreverent best, I put "eggs" after all that laying and had a good laugh.

Yes, we were made to memorize the four verb forms: present, past, present participle, past participle: throw-threw-throwing-thrown. It was drill-drill-drill. There was no other way to master these irregular verbs and to imbibe them in our system except to memorize them "one by one."

There was no problem with the present participle as all one did was add "-ing" to the present form, and so we often skipped it in recitation. There was little problem with most of the regular verbs whose past and past participle forms were the same; they both ended with "d" or "ed" as in loved and prayed. Some "y's" became "i" as in studied. Some took an "n" for the past participle as in break-broke-broken. But these still remained manageable.

Why the lapses happen most often when the "a" in the past form becomes "u" in the past participle as in swim-swam-swum or drink-drank-drunk, beats me. Perhaps we have forgotten that when the perfect tenses and the passive voice enter the picture, the resulting verb phrase composed of the principal verb and the auxiliary verbs "to have" and "to be," must take the past participle form of the principal verb, not the past form. Or is it possible that the past participle form has escaped us?

This oversight has begotten booboo's with "run" and "begin", second in frequency to the lie-lay trap. Spot the errors:

I had confidently began the day reading the newspapers.

A video clip could be ran back and forth until one has seen enough of it . . . .

Harvard business theory points that once an enterprise is successfully ran by the third generation, it is likely to stay on for a long time.

Malacañang could not do anything much about negative reports such as that ran by Time (two errors here).

. . . the billions that were sank into questionable deals by SSS and GSIS . . . .

. . . his composition . . . was translated into different languages since it was first sang during the 1997 World Youth Day.

I had earlier rang up the INQUIRER.

A city government . . . launched an investigation into a passenger ship that had sank.

Especially tricky is the unexpressed or implied auxiliary in shortened news heads. Thus: "Airport Man Ran Over by Train."

And now, when the call is for everybody to share the goods of the earth and our talents, a "wrong preposition" is fast becoming a classic: Magazine cover: Sharing the Spirit of Christmas to Others; Christmas card: Share your blessings to these less fortunate boys; news item: The University shares its expertise to the main actors of the Catholic media.

One writer must have meant "fanfare" for there is no such word as "funfare", as in "kicking off the campaign with much funfare." But come to think of it; a campaign does look like a "funfair" which means "amusement park."

Here's the latest "breaking" booboo: "We've always ran in Olongapo and we have never needed money for that."

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@info.com.ph; fax 8210659

Two letters, two issues

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GOT AN INTERESTING LETTER IN MY E-MAILbox in reaction to a column last July 5, written while I was attending the 7th International Conference on AIDS in the Asia and the Pacific in Kobe, that touched on "harm reduction" as a response to the HIV-AIDS pandemic.

"I read with much interest your…column entitled 'Wrong on AIDS—again!' What struck me most was AHRN (Asian Harm Reduction Network) Chair Zarif Tariq's statement that this is 'not just a fight against drugs, it's a fight for improving lives,'" Inez Feria Jorge of the Philippine Center for Substance Abuse Management (PCSAM) writes.

"That is a very important statement, especially in a society and government like ours that delight in shouting 'War on Drugs,' not realizing that, sometimes, it becomes a blind 'War on (our) People!'" adds Jorge. "Within a treatment and counseling setting, our work with drug users (is) guided by the principles of harm reduction, the same principles that value human life, respect human dignity, and believe in each one's capacity for change. Touting 'the best treatment program' cannot be the focus. The focus is on understanding where the client is at, what his needs are, and figuring out among a plethora of (evidence-based) methods and approaches what will most likely work for him so that his life may improve. One-size-fits-all programs have no place in substance abuse treatment!"

Jorge notes that "harm reduction," a treatment approach that includes, but is not limited to such controversial practices as needle-exchange, that is, providing clean, sterile needles in exchange for used ones to avoid repeated use of possibly contaminated needles, "is all about Tariq's wise advice: 'Ask your clients what they want!'" Contrary to accepted belief, adds Jorge, "the drug user is oftentimes capable of recognizing his difficulties, and capable too of making decisions. He is willing to listen and learn as long as he perceives the help to be relevant to his life, and responding to those which are important to him. It also helps a lot if he trusts that the counselor is not just bullsh---ing him and playing holier-than-thou! Rather than focusing so much, therefore, on second-guessing and not trusting the client (i.e. automatically and erroneously stereotyping him or her to be manipulative, a liar, etc.), harm reduction places partial responsibility upon the helping professional to earn the client's trust."

* * *

JORGE reminds that such an approach "demands utmost humility from the counselor/therapist who usually believes he knows best and is used to dictate to the client what should and should not be done." Though equipped with training (as he should be, says Jorge), the counselor/therapist must be willing to relinquish a measure of control, "to accept that the client remains to be the expert of his experiences and whose stories need to be listened to.

"In a nutshell, harm reduction is research-based pragmatism, research-backed common sense about what works."

All the controversies surrounding harm reduction programs "would have been amusing," says Jorge, "were it not sad that people we've talked to often agree with its principles, until we mention the phrase 'harm reduction,' and then their fangs begin to show!"

Jorge clarifies that she isn't claiming that "harm reduction" is "a magic bullet." But rather, what she wants is for us to "start opening our minds, and our hearts, so that we may be better able to address what is becoming an increasingly worrisome societal problem in our country today!"

To this end, PCSAM has organized an "evening of advocacy" tomorrow, Thursday, at the Penguin Café (off Remedios Circle). "The evening's premise is not to preach (for who listens anyway when we get too preachy and holier-than-thou!). Instead, it is to offer a spark that we hope will help open up hearts and minds so that we, individually and as a society, may better understand and perhaps be better able to help those experiencing drug-use related problems."

* * *

ANOTHER letter from a reader in the United States, using the pseudonym Daryl, wrote in reaction to a series of columns on cervical cancer, sharing her story with readers:

"A lot of Pinoy parents and young people are very naïve about sexual behavior and (its) consequences. I am someone (who) is considered by most a responsible youth. I was active in school, got good grades...and delayed having a boyfriend until my senior year in college. My then boyfriend and I were each other's firsts. Our only concern was pregnancy…thankfully, all the pregnancy alarms were false. Because I had never received that kind of talk from friends or family, the issue to me (and most people) was always an unwanted pregnancy, never infections or diseases.

"So in my next relationship, I still carried that nonchalance about protection … Because he was American, (my boyfriend) was on most occasions protected. A year and a half later, after we had broken up and moved on, I found myself commuting to the Cancer Institute in Washington every six weeks. The dysplasia (pre-cancerous cells) caused by HPV was persistent. It was nerve wracking…I did not cherish the thought of losing my mane, let alone dying young and alone in a foreign country. Two-and-a-half years after 'hooking up' with boyfriend #2, I was in the operating room getting prepped for full anaesthesia to remove the persistent, potentially malignant layer of cells in my cervix. I was 25 going 26.

"Thankfully, I had the sense to at least get a pap smear every year. That second pap smear of my life may have saved me. I hope all those sexually active singles start making smart choices about sex. If you do it, do it right. Be protected—and get checked regularly! Otherwise, don't even think about it."

Our most fascinating hero

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WE ARE HAPPY THAT HEARINGS ARE NOW BEing held regarding the proliferation of billboards around the city and even the countryside. I have nothing against billboards (I enjoy the ones that display a lot of flesh), but there must be some regulations aimed at preserving our landscape. On the North Luzon Expressway, billboards obstruct the view of the countryside and sometimes I wish all billboards on the northbound lane would be taken down so that motorists can admire and be calmed by the mere sight of Mt. Arayat, which is the only thing that breaks the monotony of what is geographically known as the Central Luzon plain.

While most motorists have to stay alert and not be distracted by billboards, there is one place in Manila where I am truly distracted. This is on the southbound lane of Nagtahan Bridge. Every time I cross the Pasig, I always try to get a glimpse of the Mabini Shrine below the bridge, inside the Presidential Security Compound. I look at this humble house of wood with a nipa roof to imagine how clean the Pasig must have been when Apolinario Mabini lived there. Actually, the house was located across the river in some other lot and, to preserve the structure, it was moved to its present site. It is one of the best-kept and moving historical shrines under the care of the National Historical Institute.

It was here that the "Sublime Paralytic" died of cholera after drinking unpasteurized carabao milk. Visiting this house where Mabini spent his last days writing, seeing friends, brooding over the past and inciting others to rebel against the authority of the United States is quite an experience. You look at his empty chair and wonder what it was like to converse with him. I look around the room and wonder if he ordered a coil spring for his busted wall clock. During his long exile in Guam, he kept track of time and wrote:

"Having a clock makes one feel that the hours are slipping away and if the fleeting time saddens those who are happy, on the other hand, it comforts one who suffers, because it reminds him that sufferings pass away in the same manner that the joys and the greatness in this world have to pass."

Sic transit gloria mundi, indeed. Mabini was lucky he didn't live in the time of cell phones. He had time to be quiet and reflect on a life well-lived. These days, it is so hard to find peace and quiet; there is noise everywhere.

Surely, Mabini had some things to be sorry about in his last years. Among these, of course, would be the polio that left him paralyzed from the waist down and the way the short-lived First Philippine Republic turned out. One wonders if Mabini even reminisced on the days when he could walk and the time when he tried to learn how to dance. Unlike the other officials of the Republic and the Malolos Congress, Mabini was not from the upper class and he did not socialize much. He was the first among the Mabini brothers to learn how to dance and he was said to dance so wildly that he was described as a "kankarot," whatever that means. We are told there were no women in his boarding house to practice his steps with, and he did not want to practice with any of his male friends, so he danced with a chair. When he was the closest adviser to the president in Malolos he was surely present at the balls and socials that come with power, and his paralysis surely saved many pedicured toes from being trampled on. Surely there is a difference between learning to dance with a live instructor and with a chair.

I find Mabini the most fascinating among our heroes because of the principled life he led. My only frustration is that I cannot find much of a love life to soften his image and make him more likeable. We have an unidentified Tanauan lass who embroidered his handkerchiefs. There was another woman in Malabon whom he courted according to oral sources, "merely to pass the time." Thus, it is quite an encounter to find two letters he wrote to a certain Luisita Blanchard in his stilted English. He starts by making excuses:

"I hope you will excuse my incorrectness for I have studied also that language by myself, therefore I do not speak it, though I understand any writing of it with some easiness.

"I am very much obliged to you for your deep sympathy and true friendship toward me as well as for your sorrow for my illness. Let me shake very friendly and warmly your hands across the seas, seeing that it is indiscreet to kiss it."

We only have two letters from Miss Blanchard on file and I'm hoping that the rest of the correspondence will turn up somewhere in a forgotten attic in the United States or maybe even on some files in the US Library of Congress because Mabini sent her copies of the National Anthem:

"...I am fond of reading, but ignorant of music. Please accept as a remembrance the enclosed national and Independence hymns. I enclose also a photograph of myself and will highly appreciate a photograph of yourself."

Reading these lines today makes me wonder what texts the hero would have sent if he had a cell phone. What would he make of Internet chatrooms? One can only wonder how different Mabini would have been if he had a love life. Surely his memoirs, "La Revolucion Filipina," might have been less bitter.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Rehab

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MENTION "REHAB," AND MANY FILIPINOS WILL THINK of drug dependents sent into a center. There are some expectations of a cure here, but more often rehab is seen as detention under harsh and Spartan conditions. All said, rehab is seen as punishment and imprisonment.

These perceptions of rehab are not unfounded. Many of our drug rehab centers work on the assumption that drug dependents are hardened, selfish people who need to be taught discipline so they can overcome their drug habit. Methods often parallel those of military camps and jails, stripping a person of his (most dependents are male, so I'll use male pronouns) "ego" through various methods, from shaving the head to group shaming sessions, regimented schedules and, of course, well-guarded centers with high walls.

No doubt, there have been many success stories. But there are also stories of failure, of shuttling in and out of rehab, accompanied by harrowing accounts of dehumanization. Several rehab "alumni" I've talked with use the term "zombie" to describe their new identities inside rehab and narrate how at night they would pace back and forth, back and forth, how escaping became an obsession. Those who have tried to escape still relive that experience over and over again in their dreams, long after they're out of rehab.

Punitive

Our approaches to rehab for drug dependents reflects a cultural mind-set, which looks at many of our problems as being caused by a "lack of values," a "weak personality" or a "lack of self-control." It's not just for drugs that we tend to blame the victim. We have the same mind-set for obese people, for those who smoke or drink, or who are compulsive gamblers.

When my partner got seriously hooked on shabu and disappeared, his own relatives goaded me to get the police into the picture and to look for the most harsh rehab center. Their reasoning was that force was the only way to get a "cure." "Have him beaten up—that's the best cure," suggested one of his uncles.

I resisted that "get tough" option, and a major reason was that many years ago, I lost a cousin to one of these rehab centers known for their "discipline" and shaming tactics. He learned to maneuver his way to get out of the center through bribes, through feigning recovery and through outright escapes. One night, he got out on his own and within two days, he was dead. To this day it isn't clear if it was an overdose, or a reaction—or he just gave up on the world. They'd succeeded quite well in breaking down his defiance, but that also meant crushing his spirit.

My skepticism about punitive methods isn't based on that one personal case. "Clinical Work with Substance Abusing Clients," edited by Shulasmith Straussner, reviews many reports on drug rehabilitation and concludes that there is little "to justify the punitive, authoritarian and coercive tactics that appear in the counseling styles of some clinicians."

Freedom

There are humanist rehabilitation methods that give primary value to the dignity of the individual, helping them to first recognize they have a problem, and then to see how they can harness their own strengths to overcome the problem.

I know it's difficult to imagine an "addict" as having any dignity, but that, precisely, is the danger of authoritarian approaches. After taking away what's left of a person's humanity, an authoritarian counselor will claim: "You see what animals they are?"

It's not surprising some of the rehab "graduates" become more defiant, more cynical, more spiteful of their families and of the world. "Cures" are maintained by medicines to control all their anger and bitterness. I've seen too many of them tamed indeed, but at the cost of turning them into mere listless shadows of their once vibrant selves.

The humanist methods do recognize the importance of discipline, of bringing some sense into a drug dependent's life, with more structured schedules. There are restrictions, too. For example, cell phones are not allowed within the rehab center and there may even be a complete "ban" on visitors, but this is meant to create space for the drug dependent, to think things through without feeling pressured by family.

What's important is that each step of the rehab process is negotiated, the dependent "forced" to confront himself and his life, and understand why there are restrictions on his freedom. When he feels capable, he can negotiate for more freedoms and explain why he deserves that much more space.

Nonsense, some of you might scoff especially because of that word "freedom." Yet, I am totally convinced that it is this freedom that's the key to sustained recovery. The world outside the rehab center is just fraught with so many risks. One drug dependent told me you do not have to go more than one kilometer anywhere within Metro Manila to find a drug den or a drug dealer, and I can believe him.

What does this mean for our drug problem? A drug dependent "beaten" into conformity will easily be overwhelmed by the real world outside. Without walls, without guards, it becomes all too easy to succumb to temptation. On the other hand, a person who has tasted freedom even while in rehab will remember how hard it was to earn each small freedom, and will ask himself if it's worth throwing everything out after having gone so far.

A column isn't a place to discuss the humanist methods here, but it is important we begin to talk of alternatives in rehab. I speak from the heart, of experiences with my own partner in the last few months, of stints in the hospital, in rehab and the uneasy and often turbulent life outside of the rehab center. We've been to hell and back, many times, to the point where I've declared the best I can hope for is to stop hoping. Yet, I believe it would have been worse to use punitive methods because short of hiring guardian angels, there is no way to keep watch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over someone who behaves only because of fear of punishment.

These days, when we drop in at family reunions, my partner's relatives look at him and compliment him on how healthy he looks. They're cynical, but they marvel as well, knowing he wasn't "beaten" into recovery. If for that alone, I'm glad we chose the path less taken.

Voices unheard

Tomorrow night, Oct. 6, join the Philippine Center for Substance Abuse Management (PCSAM) for a night of advocacy at the Penguin Café in Malate, Manila, starting at 8:30. Admission is free for a night of sharing on alternative approaches to substance abuse. There will be a short film, "Hear Amanda," by Cinemalaya awardee Lawrence Fajardo, followed by readings and acoustic music. Pinikpikan will perform. Admission is free, but you pay for food and drinks, which goes to Penguin. It's a night for voices unheard, exploring how drug rehab can be made truly rehabilitating.

GMA's 'school bullies' are victims of her arrogance

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS tagged street marchers as "school bullies." The metaphor is totally outrageous. The majority of the people are in poverty. A significant number have lost not only their jobs but also their loved ones as they fought for peace, sovereignty, just wages, land, and life with dignity. Ms Arroyo and her remaining allies have no right to blame the righteous protests of people who are the direct victims of her unjust government.

We remind Ms Arroyo that the thousands who are joining protest rallies are victims of the corrupt and anti-poor economic policies of her government. They are the poor who live under the constant threat of demolition. They are those who are wallowing in extreme poverty with no access to social services. They are those who are bullied by government that has no qualms about exacting heavy taxes from the people to pay for debts and sustain her corrupt military. They are the widows and orphans of human rights advocates. They are the youth, women and men who have rightful cause to protest against Ms Arroyo's corruption, fraud and betrayal of the people's interests. They are the poor who dream of a Philippine society where genuine democracy, truth and justice reign. They are peoples of faith who believe that the evils of fascism and anti-people policies should be denounced, and a just and humane system of governance should be established.

The collective anger and dreams of the people are best expressed in public assemblies. The people bring neither guns nor clubs nor sticks to the rallies. They simply bring a loud and clear message: truth, justice, peace, good governance. What is wrong with that? Are they bullies for fighting for what is good for the nation?

Corruption. Fraud. Lies. Human rights violations. Political Killings. Anti-poor economic policies like the EVAT. These are but a few transgressions of Ms Arroyo. Now she name-calls the protesters as bullies.

She has no sense of history. The 1986 and 2001 People Power have been victorious because the people patiently and militantly fought for democracy. Violence only erupted in demonstrations when police and military forces violently dispersed the protesters.

Ms Arroyo's arrogant pronouncements only fan more outrage and inspire the people to persevere in their quest for truth, justice and meaningful change.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Simbahan
para sa Bayan,
kasimbyn@tri-isys.com

Disgusting detention of Cabinet member

ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN IN THE public service for a dozen years, I rarely make statements on national policy. But the recent detention of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales by the Senate is, in plane language, disgusting.

I thought martial law was over and people of Marcos' ilk can no longer be found in the highest level of government. Apparently, I was wrong.

I have known Gonzales for a very long time. And I cannot even imagine that he would be treated like this. He continues to enjoy my full trust and confidence especially at this time. Maybe, some people think he is a nobody and doesn't have friends. They should think twice.

—TOMAS R. OSMEÑA,
mayor, Cebu City

An uneducated observation

TWO COMMENTS ON THE COLumn of Honesto General, "SWS survey: Pure hogwash," in the INQUIRER's Sept. 26 issue.

1. His claim that the SWS survey sample sizes are inadequate is based on pure ignorance. I suggest he consult anyone competent in applied market research about it.

2. As to his claim that the Social Weather Stations gave no statistics to back up its statement on the relationship of socioeconomic class to opinion about impeachment and resignation of the President, the pertinent figures are found in the right-hand columns of Tables 4 and 5 of the report he cites: those pro-impeachment are 82 percent in Class ABC, 80 percent in Class D, and 76 percent in Class E; the pro-resignation are 61 percent in Class ABC, 63 percent in Class D, and 72 percent in Class E.

So a correction is due: the higher classes are relatively more in favor of impeachment but relatively less in favor of resignation. Statistics on opinions by schooling are superfluous since schooling and socioeconomic class are directly related.

—MAHAR MANGAHAS,
president,
Social Weather Stations,
52 Malingap St.,
Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Venal contract, act of treason

THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET deal with the US-based Venable LLP to lobby for Charter change is an act of treason. This scandalous contract is a blatant display of corruption and immorality by a fraudulent President.

Ready to spend millions to pay US lobbyists to push Charter change while failing to deliver immediate economic relief for the people—this is the kind of President we have.

The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) reported that Ms Arroyo hired "US-based Venable LLP, one of America's top 100 law firms, for a substantial sum of $75,000 a month, or $900,000 (P50.4 million) for 12 months... The amount excludes 'costs for travel, telephone, fax, copying etc.' and 'professional services' of up to $720 per hour for Venable's senior associates. These expenses, for which no ceilings were mentioned, could double the contract cost."

We, in the Inter-Faith Movement for Truth, Justice and Genuine Change, believe that economic and political sovereignty should be promoted in order for this nation to survive. We oppose Charter change which will delete the remaining patriotic provisions in the 1987 Philippine Constitution and pave the way for 100-percent ownership and control of Philippine resources and business by foreigners. Even without Cha-cha, the Philippine government has already betrayed the people through the Mining Act of 1995, Oil Deregulation Law and other laws which practically violate constitutional provisions that seek to safeguard national patrimony and ban control of strategic resources and businesses by foreigners.

The Philippines is blessed with beauty and wealth. Its rich resources can support its 85 million people. What we need is a patriotic economic policy. The Philippine government must uphold national sovereignty and safeguard the national patrimony, and implement a foreign policy based on neutrality, non-intervention and non-aggression as a way to world peace. The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Mutual Logistics and Services Agreement (MLSA) should be scrapped. The US-RP Balikatan military exercises should be stopped. These agreements violate the essence of the Philippine Senate's rejection of the US-RP Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation (Military Bases Agreement) on Sept. 16, 1991.

We join the call of patriotic organizations of the people for an end to the unjust neo-colonial US-RP relations, and we urge the government to pursue economic policies that serve the best interests of Filipinos.

—FR. DIONITO CABILLAS,
coordinator,
Inter-Faith Movement for Truth,
Justice and Genuine Change,
IFM Secretariat,
877 Edsa, Quezon City 1101

A worthy senator

WE TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE SEPT. 22 COLumn of Ramon Tulfo, in which he disparaged Filipino voters for choosing actors and actresses and other show business personalities for national posts. I quote: "But our voters never learn. They insist on having persons with inadequate qualifications installed in high positions ... Look at the mother and son tandem at the Senate, Jinggoy and Loi Ejercito."

If Tulfo had looked into the records of the Senate, he would have found out that Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada has filed a total of 249 bills and 17 resolutions dealing on matters of national interests, such as "The Proposed New Labor Code of the Philippines," "Batas Kasambahay," "Amendment to the Migrant Workers Act," "The Magna Carta for Journalists," "Special Program for Employment of Students," "The Anti-Terrorism Bill," "The PNP Modernization Act," "Political Turncoatism Ban Act." At present, the good senator ranks fourth in the list of senators with the most number of bills filed in the Senate.

Last Sept. 19, Estrada, chair of the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, successfully defended the passage on third reading of the National Labor Relations Commission Bill which seeks to speed up the disposition of labor cases filed in that agency.

Estrada has been an active participant in Senate deliberations and public hearings, exchanging thoughts and insights with his senior and experienced colleagues. Through interpellations, he helped improve and refine bills, specifically on the UP Charter, Human Rights Victims Compensation Act, Amendments to the National Internal Revenue Code on the EVAT and the Excise Taxes, 2005 National Budget, Synchronized Barangay and SK Elections, Ratification of the International Labor Organization Convention on Forced Labor and the Mandatory Hepatitis-B Immunization.

Since his assumption to office, the senator has delivered a total of 12 privilege speeches defending the freedom of speech, freedom of expression and the right to public assembly. He has exposed anomalous transactions and operations of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and other abuses of power by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Although Tulfo places actors in a bad light, Estrada is proud of where he comes from. For his information, Estrada finished his primary and secondary education at the Ateneo de Manila University, earned his degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines and reached senior year in law studies at the Lyceum of the Philippines.

His political track record includes a three-year stint as vice mayor and three consecutive terms as mayor of San Juan in Metro Manila. He was elected president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines from 1998 to 2001.

—SIMEON E. GARCIA JR.,
chief of staff,
Office of Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada,
GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City

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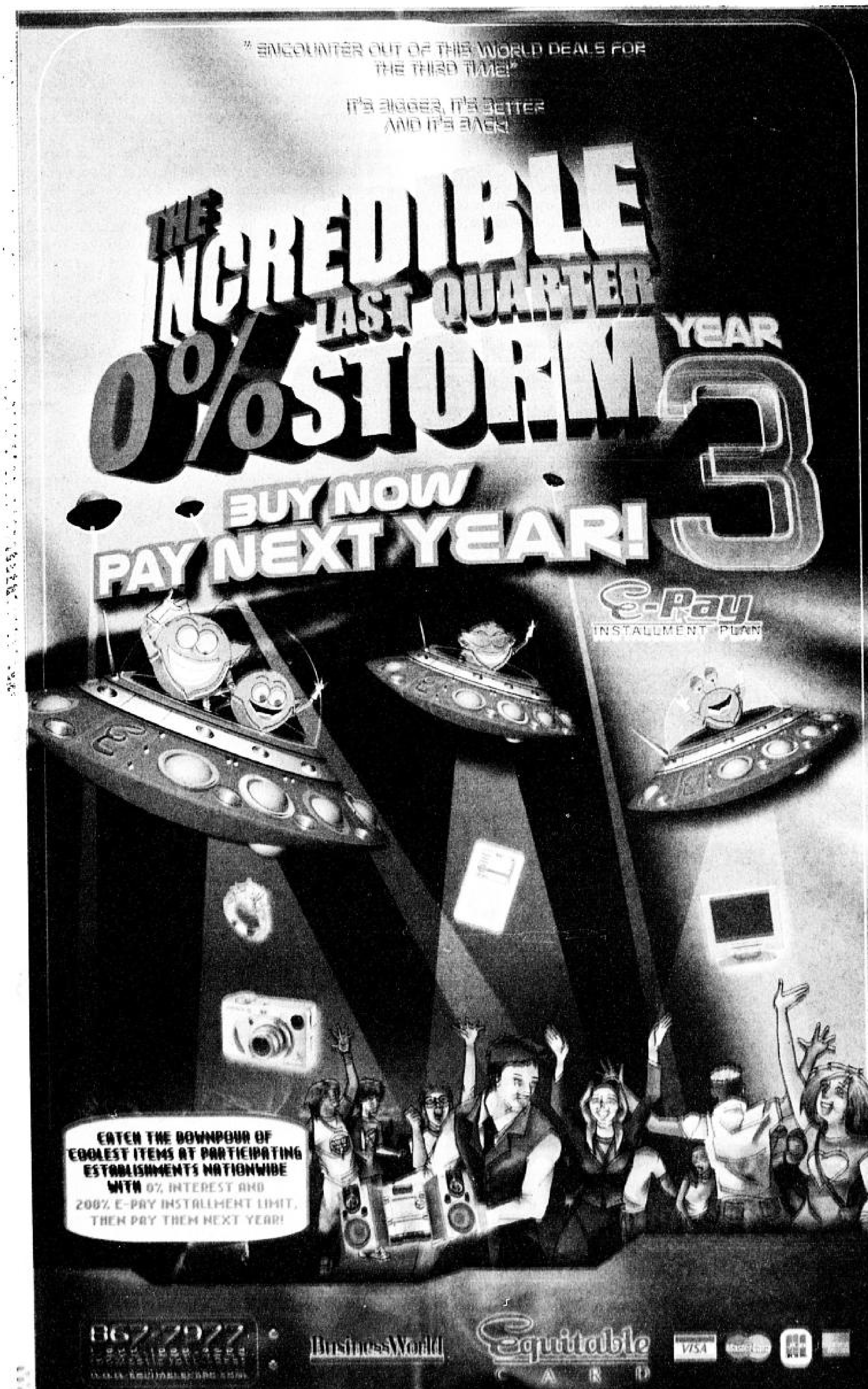
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What is the secret of this rock?

By Russell Arador
Camiling, Tarlac

IN AN AREA THAT IS PART OF Pangasinan on the slopes of the Zambales mountain range, an amateur archaeologist discovered in 1985 a stone tablet overlaid with embossed markings.

For nearly 20 years, Ronnie Alonzo, 40, studied the "geometrical composition" on the surface of the basaltic rock, spending close to P1 million of his own money in the research.

AMATEUR archaeologist Ronnie Alonzo shows off a rock he found in a Zambales mountain range that supposedly shows the ancient map of the world. RUSSELL ARADOR

What he found out more than compensated for the money, time and effort he had spent in unlocking the secret of the rock.

The lines and other markings on the stone slab, which measures 11 inches wide, two inches thick and seven inches high, and weighs 4.8 kilograms, turned out to be a "code" believed to reveal the location of the lost island of Atlantis.

In a paper presented before European and American scientists in July this year in Greece, Alonzo concluded that the "stone code" was a "map of the world" containing a "reference to Atlantis' location."

But it was a map like no other, he told the INQUIRER.

Aside from giving geographical information like an ordinary map does, he explained, the "key stone" also shows the "forces that help reshape the earth's surface by creating geological stresses around the planet."

He said the lines on the artifact matched those on the Dynamic Earth Map and the World Stress Map developed by the United States Geological Survey and the Smithsonian Institute.

"This is strange because if the stone is as old as the age of the general area where it was discovered, which is about three million years, then this means that whoever made those markings three million years ago already knew about seismic zones and the location of massive forces that reshape the surface of the earth—knowledge that came to modern day scientists only recently," he said.

Natural or man-made?

While the age of the stone is yet to be determined, he said the bigger puzzle is whether the embossed markings are natural or man-made.

Alonzo is set to go to the United States to have the age of the stone analyzed. He is also looking for an expert on patterns following the advise of a Greek geologist who told him that "the most important work for you ... is to demonstrate that the image is man-made and [that it is] beyond nature's capacity to do it."

In an electronic mail message to Alonzo on Aug. 30, Stavros Papamarinopoulos, a geology professor at the University of Patras in Greece, said an "excellent mathematical treatment (involving the determination) of the rigorous relation between the image and known geological map at the proper epoch" was required to "calculate the possibility of the image to be nature-made (or) the opposite."

Papamarinopoulos co-chaired the organizing committee of the international conference where Alonzo read the findings of his 20-year study on the stone map.

Themed "The Atlantis Hypothesis: Searching for a Lost Land," the July 11-13 conference in Milos Island, Greece, drew the participation of more than 30 scientists and scholars from Greece, Italy, Israel, the Czech Republic, Germany, Chile, the United States, France, Spain, Australia and Denmark.

Alonzo, who is taking up his master's degree in archaeology at the University of the Philippines, was the only representative from Asia.

In a Power Point presentation summarizing his paper "A stone code from Zambales mountain range—A link to the Atlantean myth," Alonzo identified 16 "features" of the stone map.

Aside from the Atlantis and the equally mysterious Bermuda Triangle, the stone also shows the locations of the Philippine Islands, Bay of Bengal and the Ninety East Ridge group; the Hawaiian Islands, Aleutian Trench and the Queen Elizabeth Islands group; the Wrangel, Fletcher, Pole and Barents Abyssal Plains group; the Svalvard Island, Spits Bergen and North East Land group; the Franz Josef Land, Graham Bell Island, George Land and Alexandra Land group; the North Land, Bolshevik Island, October Revolution Island and Komsomolets Island group; the Ural Mountains, Great African Reef Valley and the African Magnetic Anomaly Zone group.

The "14th feature" is a human-like figure under the Kerguelen Islands (below the southern tip of Africa) that is also visible in the World Ocean Floor Map, the Dynamic Earth Map and the satellite altimetry reading of the US' National Geophysical Data Center.

Alonzo's paper was one of 34 papers selected from almost 200 entries to the Milos conference.

It drew mixed reactions from the Greek academic community, which generally clings to the belief that the lost city of Atlantis could be found in the Greek island of Thera.

The Greek philosopher Plato was the first to write about Atlantis, a "utopian paradise" that submerged 11,500 years ago after the global sea level rose following the melting of glacial ice in the North Pole.

Plato described Atlantis as "larger than Libya and Asia put together."

How Alonzo stumbled upon the stone that launched half-a-lifetime of research is a study in serendipity and persistence.

He said he was with a group of fossil collectors in the Zambales mountain range in 1985 when the stone map caught their attention.

At first he thought the lines on the surface of the rock were fossilized insects.

Opinions by geologists, anthropologists and archaeologists he consulted differed.

A geologist from the National Museum said the lines were due to the presence of ore or lode, he said. Another said they were natural formations due to exposure to different weather conditions across time.

But Alonzo remained undaunted that he was working on a topic that many consider a myth, not to mention costly.

(T)he 'stone code' was a 'map of the world'

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Vizcaya bishop turns critic of GMA

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—CATHOLIC BISHop Ramon Villena, an erstwhile ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has criticized the government for supposedly causing the crises hounding the country today.

In a statement on Tuesday, Villena described Ms Arroyo as a "lame duck president," and blamed her lack of mandate for her supposed inability to effectively run the country.

"Every day, we are stunned by new allegations, new controversies that continue to degrade the credibility of [the Arroyo] administration. There seems to be no ending to all these. This government is in a mess," he said.

Ms Arroyo also appointed Villena as co-chair of the Regional Development Council, the highest policy-making body in Cagayan Valley.

Appointment

Either Ms Arroyo or members of her family have always been present during Villena's birthday celebrations here since 2001.

But Villena has started criticizing policies implemented by the Arroyo administration recently, including the President's executive order on the revitalization of the mining industry in the country.

"Instead of becoming their protector, the government is now becoming the enemy of the people," Villena said.

He cited the relief of Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, two Marine officers who testified before the Senate inquiry on the alleged cheating in the 2004 elections.

Puzzled

"Why are they now being put on court martial? Why is government trying to muzzle the right of the people to speak out the truth?" Villena asked.

The bishop said more and more people in government could now afford to defy the President because "she has lost her mandate to govern."

Villena rejected the plan of the Arroyo administration to change the Constitution, saying the problem lies in the country's leaders and the crises that they face.

"It will not be long before we will be number one in the world in terms of corruption. Our leaders are corrupt. How can our officials deliver if they are corrupt?" he said.

Villena cautioned foreign mining companies into reconsidering their plans of investing in the country given the extent of corruption in government.

"With the kind of government that we have now, I am sure the future will be bleak for any mining company," he said.

Ms Arroyo has survived an impeachment vote in the House of Representatives which her critics said was manipulated to make sure the impeachment of the President does not reach the Senate.

RP gets ₱1B in loans from Saudi to finance 3 Mindanao road plans

By Volt Contreras

THE GOVERNMENT HAS INcurred a $20-million (P1.12 billion) loan from Saudi Arabia to finance three major road projects in Mindanao, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

Signed for Manila by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo during a bilateral meeting in Riyadh over the weekend, the loan agreement covers the Lanao Lake Circumferential Road, the Basilan Circumferential Road, and the Cotabato Diversion Road.

Romulo said the funds will be drawn from the Saudi government's $100-million pledge to the country under the Saudi Fund for Development.

At the 2nd Joint Commission Meeting between the Philippine and Saudi governments held from Oct. 1 to 2, the Filipino delegation proposed three more Mindanao projects for Saudi funding under new loan agreements tapping the SFD.

These were the Mindanao Railway System, a socialized credit program, and a socialized housing program catering to the region's poor. Feasibility studies for the MRS are going on at the National Economic and Development Authority.

In another accord, the Kingdom's governing body for vocational education expressed interest in hiring up to 16,000 trainers from the Philippines to help upgrade the skills, particularly of female Saudi workers.

Romulo said Saudi's General Organization for Technical Education and Vocational Training (Gotevot) has been encouraged by the competence of Filipino migrant workers in the kingdom, that it hopes to hire instructors from the Philippines in the next three years.

The planned mass hiring is part of Gotevot's service expansion program for which it has allotted a budget of 3 billion Saudi Riyals, the secretary added.

This was disclosed during the signing of a memorandum of understanding under which Gotevot will receive training assistance from its Philippine counterpart Tesda (Technical Education Skills and Development Authority).

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JOFELLE TESORIO/PDI PHOTO

These flags signal the start of Octoberfest in Puerto Princesa City. The fest, which originally started in the Bavarian Region in Germany, is usually celebrated in the Philippines in October but in Germany, their Octoberfest is in September. The flags of Puerto Princesa City, the Philippines, Germany and Munich hang at Kinabuch's Grill and Bar, the hippiest place in the city, also symbolize friendship between the city and its German residents and expats.

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Gov't to pay for cost of rehab of mining sites left by firms

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT WILL start rehabilitating at least seven abandoned mine sites in the country after mining firms abandoned their responsibility in restoring the environment of their host communities, a government mining official said.

In a forum on responsible mining here on Thursday, Assistant Secretary Jeremias Dolino of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said the government will prioritize the Bagacay Pyrite Mines in Western Samar for initial rehabilitation because it left the worst environmental impact among the seven abandoned mines.

Others set for rehabilitation are the Basay Copper Mine (Negros Oriental), Thanksgiving Gold Mine (Benguet), Black Mountain Copper Mine (Benguet), Boneng-Lobo Copper Mine (Benguet), Consolidated Mine (Marinduque) and Palawan Quick Silver Mine (Puerto Princesa City).

Dolino said the MGB has asked 24 technical persons to study and formulate the final land use development plans for the abandoned mines.

"The government is shouldering all the expenses for revitalization because these mining companies have no money for this purpose at all," he told reporters here.

However, Dolino said the government has no funds to support the rehabilitation of all identified mine sites. He said the government has allotted only P50 million for the reforestation and clean up of Bagacay Mines alone.

The government would need up to P100 million to completely rehabilitate Bagacay, he said.

"Rehabilitation requires huge resources which the government does not have as of now. We are finding ways to come up with financial programs so these mines will be rehabilitated," said Nelia Halcon, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Mines.

Mining officials said the country has 857 abandoned mines needing attention.

Dolino said the government has been asking mining firms to provide funds for rehabilitation of abandoned mines.

He said the Marcopper Mines in Marinduque, which stopped operations due to a tailings dam spill in 1996, has yet to rehabilitate its mine site.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered Marcopper to immediately implement the Unites States Geological Survey (USGS) recommendations to rehabilitate areas hit by the spill.

The USGS-led team said Marcopper should ensure the integrity of infrastructure such as silt dams and drainage tunnels, neutralize and rehabilitate waste and dump sites to prevent acid generation, clean up remaining tailings in rivers, ensure safe tailings storage, and conduct further study on health concerns brought about by the spill.

Dolino said the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 has more provisions on environmental laws to stop environmental degradation. Old mining laws did not provide "realistic" and adequate requirements for rehabilitation, he said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Muslims start observing Ramadan

COTABATO CITY—MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY started their month-long fasting yesterday after Islamic scholars announced the sighting of the moon, which signaled the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, on Monday evening. Fasting during this month is one of the teachings of Islam.

In this city and in Maguindanao, Muslims hanged decorations while others greeted Ramadan with gunfire.

For about 15 minutes here on Monday, gun bursts filled the atmosphere.

"It was a tradition but it should be stopped because it endangers the lives of other people," an Islamic scholar and member of the Darul Ifta, a group of religious authorities, said.

Some stray bullets landed in residential areas, hitting at least three houses in the city.

Unlike in previous Ramadan incidents, no one was hurt by the stray bullets this time.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, newly installed Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan declared Oct. 5 as a special holiday in the region so Muslims would have ample time to rest.

Muslims start the daily fasting by eating before the sun rises. Those fasting are prohibited from taking food or even a small amount of water during the day.

The fast is broken when the sun completely sets by taking another meal.

Deeply religious Muslims spend the day reading verses from the Koran and praying.

Muslim employees in government offices in the ARMM and other parts of Mindanao were required to report for work at about 7:30 a.m. but they would be allowed to go home at 3 p.m. to give them time to prepare. *Edwin Fernandez, Mindanao Bureau*

DAVAO SECURITY DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Commuters have to bear the delay caused by their buses being flagged down by soldiers for inspection. Security has been stepped up in Davao City amid terror threats.

DENR chief puts stop to Baguio land sales amid charges of fraud

BAGUIO CITY—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor stopped public land sales in Baguio City, after Mayor Braulio Yaranon and the city council accused employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and several subdivision developers of land fraud.

Yaranon asked Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo to investigate the registered land title of a developer, whose property allegedly encroaches into titled lands.

Lydia Areola, a real estate broker who complained about the encroachment, has sued DENR officials at the office of the Ombudsman.

The city's 96-year-old charter, which was developed by the colonial American government in 1909, regulates land ownership by requiring residents to bid for a maximum of 1,000 square meters of townsite lands.

Townsite sales applications (TSAs) are processed by a committee composed of the DENR's Land Management Bureau, the city mayor, and the environment secretary.

Local real estate brokers said this process explains why Baguio lands are prized unusually high in the open market.

Defensor stopped accepting TSA applications for the next six months to allow DENR to verify the titles, and to pursue charges that government insiders manipulated several applications to enable them to grant one applicant a title to over 50 hectares of land in Barangay Dontogan here.

Areola asked the Ombudsman to pay specific interest in the title of Gloria de Guzman, owner of this vast real estate, which is now being developed by Prime Peak Properties Inc.

Yaranon said De Guzman acquired lands that were processed in 1959. But the original 10,300 square meters she bought from a TSA applicant was resurveyed and subdivided but had expanded to a 51.15 hectare property.

De Guzman owns a second townsite application for a 1,000-sq m land on Outlook Drive here. When resurveyed and subdivided, the lot increased to 4,482 sq m.

His third application is for a 501 sq m land in Barangay Pacdal, which increased to 15.58 has.

Donna Demetillo and Vincent Cabreza, PDI N. Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

PNP chief relieved

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippine National Police has relieved the San Pablo City police chief for failure to eradicate the illegal numbers games in the city. City police chief Supt. Edgardo Tinio was replaced by Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona effective Sept. 30, following a raid on a Bingo Two-ball and 'jueteng' games operations in a village here by anti-illegal gambling elements from Camp Crame last week. Leo Abril, city information officer, said Sarona was a member of Class '86 of the Philippine Military Academy. Tinio served the city for less than a year.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Executive held up

STA. ROSA CITY—Four unidentified armed men held up and robbed an executive of Hitachi, Inc. of his belongings, including his Nissan X-Trail, on Wednesday. Police said the gunmen flagged down the vehicle of Ronald D. Galang, 25, an analyst of Hitachi, at Barangay Dita here and took his Nokia cellular phone worth P40,000; ATM card; P8,000 in cash; $200 bill; a wristwatch worth P20,000; and his vehicle. The victim, who suffered a head injury, was brought to the St. James Hospital for treatment. Police raised an alert for the stolen Nissan X-Trail with license plate ZAS-137, to report immediately to the police. Its engine is OR25-284516A.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Food handlers' lecture

ANG KALINISAN AY KALUSUGAN

CITY OF CALAPAN—The City Health and Sanitation Department (CHSD) has been conducting Food Handlers' Class lectures on health education, environmental health sanitation and monitoring bakeries, carinderias and fastfood chains to ensure food safety and proper waste disposal. The CHSD is also closely monitoring proper sanitation with barangay officials and alerting the public on reported cases of dengues and malaria, according to the CHSD.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police to file slay case

SINILOAN, Laguna—The Laguna police was preparing to file a murder case in court against a customer of a videoke bar here, who was apparently annoyed by another man's singing of his favorite song. The customer stabbed dead without provocation the man who was singing on Sept. 28. Police identified the victim as Leopoldo Alvarez, 44, single, laborer and native of Barangay Duhat, Padre Burgos, Quezon and residing at Barangay Llavac, Siniloan, Laguna. The suspect was identified as Leandro Arvin, 27, single, native of Latagan, Mulanay, Quezon and also a resident of Barangay Llavac.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus operators fined

MORONG, Bataan—For violating the terms and conditions of franchises or certificates of public convenience issued by the Land Transportation Regulatory Board (LTFRB), bus operators and drivers here were fined P3,000 each. The LTFRB regional office in Pampanga handed down the decision on 17 members of the Morong Mini-bus Drivers and Operators Association Inc. after it found that bus drivers and operators had violated a memorandum of agreement between MMBDOAI and the Morong, Bataan Jeepney Association. The MOA forbids bus operators from maintaining a terminal here and from traveling to and from Subic Bay Freeport.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

PLANTING POLICEMEN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Supt. Delfin Genio and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn plant a tree at the regional headquarters of the PNP in Camp Vicente Lim.

BCDA starts expropriating land in Pampanga town for road plan

FLORIDABLANCA, PAMPANGA—The Bases Conversion Development Authority started claiming more property in this town as the construction of its Japanese-funded Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project moved here.

The BCDA's move is being protested by landowners who are still awaiting payments for their lands, the INQUIRER learned.

Armed with a writ from the regional trial court in Guagua, the BCDA on Monday possessed a 4,128-square meter lot in Barangay San Ramon. Its Subic-Clark segment contractor, the Kajima, bulldozed the land owned by Paul Meyrick Vitug.

Some 300 meters west of Vitug's land, two backhoes cut through the Bulud Babi mountain.

Vitug's father, Federico, assailed the BCDA for paving the land without paying the family and without properly cutting the trees.

Only the 323 trees of various species and fences were paid for about P900,000, the elder Vitug said.

Regidor de Leon, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon, said his office has yet to issue tree cutting permits for the project.

The DENR, he said, has only completed an inventory of trees along the road alignment.

The elder Vitug said while his family had agreed to sell that piece of land and completed the documents, they were worried over the haste with which the BCDA went ahead with the expropriation proceedings.

That land and another 1.5-has property that Vitug planted with 13,965 trees are in the direct route of the 94-km road linking the special economic zones of Subic in Bataan and Zambales, Clark in Pampanga and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

"We bought the lands for our retirement and revived the areas [affected by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo] through reforestation. Sadly, the government has resorted to expropriation over our private rights to our lands," the elder Vitug said.

The DENR's Forest Management Bureau in August valued the trees in Vitug's 1.5-ha land at P10.6 million, less than half of a pricing formula set by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, documents showed.

Some 20 landowners in Barangay Pabanlag and in the original Yulo estate aired the same complaints over differences in pricing that they earlier expressed to BCDA president Narciso Abaya in a forum in August.

BCDA vice president Rex Antonio Chan said in Vitug's case, the agency had deposited the land payment in court while the expropriation case was ongoing.

The writ indicated an amount of P123,870 for Vitug's lot.

Chan said the BCDA was buying or expropriating at least 1,077 lots in the entire stretch of the P27-billion road eyed to be finished by 2007.

Abaya had said the BCDA was resorting to expropriations in cases where landowners refused to give right-of-way to the project.

"It's not that we are refusing. We want due process and just compensation," Vitug said.

Brig. Gen. Pedro Curva, deputy commander of the 7th Infantry Division, said soldiers from the 70th Infantry Battalion were sent to the village to "provide security operations to the project as requested by the (Kajima) due to the threats coming from the New People's Army."

Soldiers, Curva said, were not there to force landowners to give their lands to the BCDA. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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DOJ: Arrest Bro. Eddie Villanueva for estafa

From page A1

of Justice came into the picture because the Mandaluyong regional trial court had asked it to implement the arrest warrant. "There no politics here."

The evangelist refused to pay the P40,000 bail set by the court. Instead, he dared the government to arrest him, saying this would set off more damaging revelations against the administration.

"I don't want to recognize this railroaded judicial process," Villanueva told reporters. "I might as well be imprisoned so I could expose and denounce this tyrannical and illegitimate regime, which fiddles with the justice system."

Villanueva said the administration had been using the case to blackmail him and force him to declare support for Ms Arroyo. "This is really harassment."

"They are doing this because I supported the impeachment (complaint against Ms Arroyo)," he said. "They are now going after people who seek the truth."

Gonzalez's order to the NBI came two weeks after Malacañang announced it would go after people who had warrants of arrest and who had participated in moves to unseat the President, as part of its "calibrated preemptive response" policy.

At a huge prayer rally in Manila's Rizal Park on Sunday, JIL, which celebrated its 27th anniversary, honored as heroes 10 former Cabinet members and agency heads who called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo, and 50 members of the House of Representatives who voted but failed to impeach her.

The day before, administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago accused former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon of plotting to assassinate Ms Arroyo. Aquino and Drilon have also called on the President to resign.

Suspicious timing

Villanueva and his supporters found the "timing" of Gonzalez's order to the NBI suspicious. The evangelist said the arrest warrant was released on April 5, 2005, but was made public only the day after JIL's 27th anniversary rally.

VILLANUEVA: This is really harassment ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"If they had evidence, why didn't they implement the warrant as soon as it was released?" he asked. "Why only now in this time of many gag orders?"

Villanueva said he was giving Gonzalez the benefit of the doubt, expressing the hope that "he will use his keen sense of justice and not be a tool in harassing us."

His lawyer, Lorna Kapunan, said she was puzzled why the arrest warrant, issued six months ago, had not been served.

Kapunan said she would file a petition for review with the DOJ and a motion to suspend proceedings with the Regional Trial Court Branch 212.

Gonzalez said it was just "coincidental" that his directive to the NBI came days after the Department of Agrarian Reform decided to turn over Hacienda Luisita, which is owned by the family of Aquino, to its farm workers, and the order came out to investigate Aquino and Drilon in connection with the alleged plot against Ms Arroyo.

Malacañang distanced itself from the arrest warrant issued against Villanueva.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Villanueva's case was strictly a private matter. "It's an argument between private parties and Malacañang has nothing to do with it."

Benito Araneta

The case dates back to March 2001, when Villanueva and his Zoe Broadcasting Network Inc. entered into an agreement with Benito Araneta and EnterNet for the operation of Channel 11.

Araneta said Villanueva, chair and president of Zoe, "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously made it appear" that he could legally enter into a contract with his company, Entertainment Network Ltd. (EnterNet), despite Zoe having a similar agreement with Vintage Television Corp.

Araneta said he paid Villanueva P15 million for the joint-venture agreement signed on March 29, 2001, and for the transfer of the operation and management of Channel 11 to his company on June 15, 2001.

It turned out that Zoe and Vintage TV had already signed a similar agreement on Feb. 28, 1999, according to Araneta.

Villanueva said it was his company that was duped by Araneta and EnterNet.

In June 2001, he said Zoe agreed to manage and operate Channel 11 with Araneta on the condition that "necessary corrections will be made" to their memorandum of agreement and joint venture agreement.

Both documents "did not accurately reflect all the essential points" they had agreed upon, he said.

First Gentleman

Three months earlier, the First Gentleman supposedly guaranteed to him by phone that Araneta was his cousin and was a "good man" in an effort to convince him to accommodate EnterNet.

Villanueva said Araneta came into the picture knowing full well that Zoe's previous partner, Vintage TV, had already backed out from the operation of Channel 11.

Vintage, in fact, "advised Zoe to entertain other groups, which may be interested to co-manage" the channel.

From June 15, 2001, to July 2002, Villanueva said Araneta's company ran Channel 11 "24 hours, seven days a week."

"For more than a year, Araneta pocketed all earnings of Channel 11 and all the while refusing to incorporate the joint venture company that was supposed to manage (the channel)," he said.

Villanueva said Araneta owed him a balance of P70 million since he allegedly paid only P30 million in goodwill money on a staggered basis at the start of the project.

The amount was supposedly on top of the P122,023 worth of airtime cost from November to December 2001.

Villanueva said the businessman also ignored their agreement on a 60-40 sharing of the net income. "After a year, because of our long suffering, I decided to cancel their contract with Zoe," he said. "Perhaps this angered (Araneta)."

Jesus Santos, lawyer of the First Gentleman, said Villanueva must be "hallucinating" when he insisted that his client had a hand in the case.

"What has the First Gentleman got to do with the arrest warrant? He's not here anymore so what political harassment is he talking about?" said Santos.

The First Gentleman has been in self-exile in the United States since late June (except for a two-week break when he returned to the Philippines to attend his half-sister's burial) to take the heat off the President.

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Journalist shot, now in bad shape at press time

From page A1

tor Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, the local journalists' union said.

Driver-photographer Emmanuel Zaldivar said he was with Aguirre when the gunman armed with a .45-cal. automatic aimed and fired at his colleague. Zaldiver said he pushed Aguirre aside, but Aguirre was hit in the back. Zaldiver suffered bruises.

Witnesses said that the gunman also fired at Zaldivar twice but his gun jammed.

The attacker then casually walked toward a motorcycle driven by another man and escaped.

Doctors performed a four-hour operation on Aguirre, who remained under observation at the General Santos Doctors' Hospital. They said a single bullet fired to the back exited through Aguirre's stomach. "We could not say yet if he is already out of danger," said Joseph Jubelag, editor in chief of Mindanao Bulletin, quoting doctors.

Policemen were sent to secure him from further attacks.

Zaldivar told the INQUIRER that a man who introduced himself as a brother of the victim tried to enter the hospital shortly before noon yesterday.

When hospital guards accosted him, however, the man said he would take his lunch first and would return. He never did.

A lot of rumors

Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, city police chief, said investigators were trying to determine the motive behind the incident. "The shooting may not be work-related," Toroctocon said, adding it could have been driven by a grudge.

"We're still trying to establish the motive. We've been hearing a lot of rumors, so we want to be sure about our facts," he said.

John Paul Jubelag, managing editor and business manager of Mindanao Bulletin, said Aguirre, who joined the paper several months ago, had never written anything controversial.

NUJP condemns attack

"He writes business news aside from being our account executive," Jubelag said.

In a statement, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines condemned the attack.

"It is a reflection of the government's failure to ensure security not only for journalists but for all Filipinos, especially those in the provinces who complain of human rights violations as our leaders busy themselves with politics in the capital," said NUJP's Jose Torres Jr.

"The NUJP calls on the authorities to immediately investigate the attack on Aguirre and arrest the culprits. We reiterate our call for the government to immediately resolve the cases of killings of journalists," Torres said.

Second attack in GenSan

Aguirre was the second reporter to be attacked in General Santos City this year, after radio broadcaster Klein Cantoneros was shot dead in May.

Cantoneros had been using his talk show to criticize local officials and prominent personalities for illegal gambling in the city.

Also in May, tabloid columnist Pablo Hernandez was engaged in a pre-dawn shootout with two attackers. He had survived a knife attack earlier in the year. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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Abu Sayyaf to use women in bomb attacks, say police

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG), backed by the Jemaah Islamiyah, is set to deploy women in bombings in Metro Manila and other key cities, a police intelligence report said.

"The ASG will utilize women muhahideens (sic) in the conduct of the (bomb attacks)," said the report sent from Camp Crame to local police units.

Mujahideen are Muslim guerrilla warriors engaged in a "holy war."

The report identified targets as Metro Manila and the cities of Zamboanga, Pagadian, Kidapawan and Koronadal. The last four targets are in Mindanao.

The three-page report, a copy of which was obtained by INQUIRER, was disseminated to police units even before Saturday's bombing in Bali.

Although the report did not specify how the women would be used in the attacks, it said that ASG leader Jaimal Sali, known as Abu Solaiman, had sent his lover to spy on and identify targets in Metro Manila.

The report identified Sali's lover as Hannah Daud, who reportedly also goes by the name Precella Adora.

"The ASG leader reportedly tasked his mistress to conduct casing operations in Metro Manila," the report said.

It said possible targets included commercial areas, embassies, seaports, airports, parks and malls.

An ASG member identified as "Yusop" and five others are reportedly already in Zamboanga City waiting for two boxes of explosives.

Fifteen more Sulu-based ASG members are expected to arrive to augment Yusop's group.

According to the report, a bomb attack on or before Fiesta Pilar on Oct. 12 would launch the series of bombings.

The Zamboanga City Cathedral was identified in the report as a target.

In Pagadian City, northeast of Zamboanga City, two ASG men have reportedly linked up with Moro Islamic Liberation Front Commander Akidin Abdulsalama to coordinate the attacks.

The two men, the report said, bought an undetermined amount of explosives in the vicinity of Ticada Island, San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur on Sept. 11.

The police report also identified ASG members Abu Ang and a certain Najib as participants in the attack.

"All the teams will make use of women warriors in the operations," the report said.

The police report said Jemaah Islamiya was providing support to the ASG, but did not specify how it would do so.

Seniors to get free LRT ride

TAKE OUT THOSE SENIOR CITIZEN BADGES.

On Friday, Line 1 and Line 2 of the Light Rail Transit Authority and the Metro Rail Transit 3 will not charge elders who can present senior citizen cards in celebration of Elderly Filipino Week, said the Department of Transportation and Communication yesterday.

LRT Line 1 runs from Monumento to Baclaran, while Line 2 runs from Santolan in Pasig to Recto in Manila. MRT 3 goes from North Ave. to Baclaran in Taft.

The DOTC said the weeklong tribute to senior citizens was aimed at promoting their rights and recognizing their contributions to national development. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Disqualified ferry bidder cries foul

A BIDDER DISQUALIFIED FOR the newly-revived operation of the Pasig River Ferry System decried the action of the bids and awards committee yesterday, saying it could have provided would-be passengers with a less expensive ride than the winner in the bid.

In a press conference in Quezon City, Metrostar Ferry Inc. president Restie Bicomong said that with a bid of P1.75 per kilometer fare, its price was P8.50 lower for the first 17 km than that of winner Nautical Transport, which bid P2.25.

In a letter to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Committee (PRRC), Metrostar Ferry chair Juanito Tejada argued that his firm should not have been disqualified in the first place.

But Transport Undersecretary Agustin Bengzon yesterday explained that Metro Star Ferry was disqualified because it failed to show a credit line from a reputable financial institution.

Lacking a credit line, Tejada said Metrostar had a P100 million capital stock and P55 million subscription from its stockholders and investors.

He added that the company was negotiating with Philippine Veterans Bank for a P300 million loan to be guaranteed by PhilExim.

But PRRC executive director Bingle Gutierrez said the committee could not accept "future" fund sources when it was clearly stated that a credit line from a reputable financial institution was required.

Bengzon said the bid and awards committee also discovered two more deficiencies in the documents which Metro Star submitted. *DJ Yap and Clarissa S. Batino*

Watch out for a 'gwapo' Metro

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ARE YOU READY FOR A makeover?

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday bared its head-to-toe facelift program for Metro Manila by 2006, aptly called "Metro Gwapo: Looking Forward to a Good-Looking Metro."

Before a powerhouse audience that included President Macapagal-Arroyo and Cabinet members at the agency's headquarters in Makati City yesterday, the MMDA presented its 11-point rehabilitation program for Metro Manila.

"Instead of saying beautiful, orderly, or pretty, we lumped these terms together into a single word: *gwapo*," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, explaining the use of the term to reporters.

"Metro Manila should come out as a good-looking metropolis, including its people. Anything and anyone can look good," said Fernando.

A five-year program with an estimated cost of roughly P23.3 billion, Metro Gwapo includes projects that would address traffic management, roadways clearing, resettlement, flood control, and disaster management.

Among these projects are:

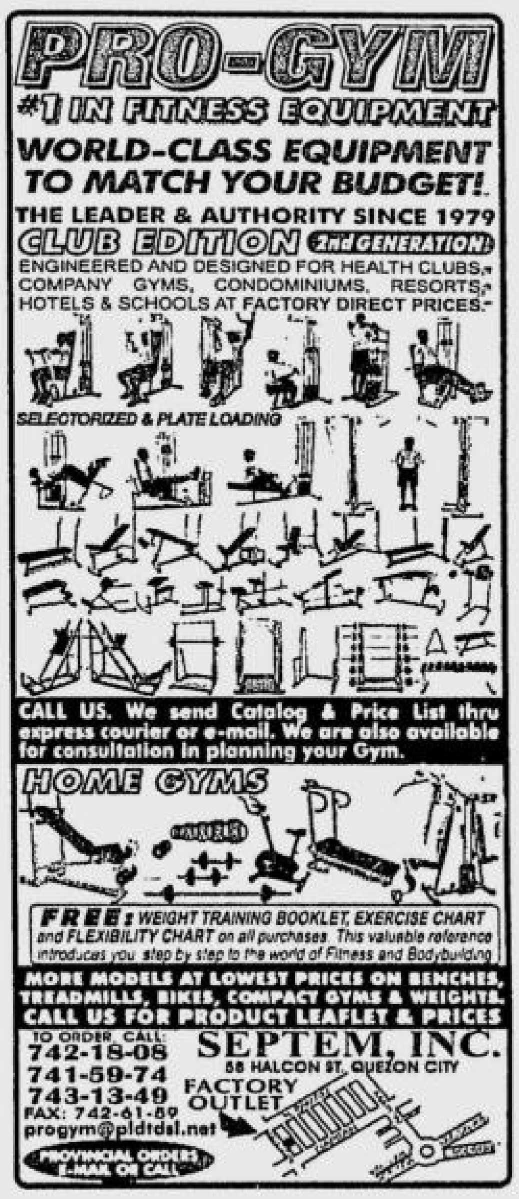
- Street Nomads Care, a P247 million program that seeks to remove beggars, vagrants, and the homeless from the streets and taking them to facilities providing decent meals and bed-and-bath.
- Sidewalk Dwellers Inventory and Relocation, a P400 million project moving 11,000 informal settlers to resettlement sites.
- Waterways Dwellers Relocation project relocating 70,000 families living dangerously on waterways to safe areas.
- Pook Na Bulok Program to upgrade blighted areas of Metro Manila.

Other projects include: Workers' Inns, Bike and Walk Ways Project, the Organized Bus Route Program, the Seven Major Roads Rehabilitation Program, C5-Kalayaan Elevated U-turn Slot Project, Flood Mitigation, and Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Program.

The Metro Gwapo program, said Fernando, would need the partnership of the MMDA, the national government, and local government agencies.

He also called on the public to do its part.

"We're looking at Metro Manila in terms of its totality. The task of rehabilitation can only be done with the help of everybody—from the local government to the citizens of Metro Manila, and even those who come here for business or to work," Fernando said.



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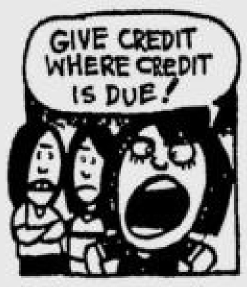
GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!

A CALOOCAN City based women's group accused Mayor Enrico Echiverri yesterday of grabbing credit when he issued an executive order creating a Gender Development Council. Emelita Salamanca, Executive Director of Grassroots Women's Empowerment Center, Inc., said it was her group that worked hard and provided inputs on gender development. She said they were not even informed of the creation of the council. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Roldan witness on stand

FORMER congressman and actor Dennis Roldan, who is facing kidnap-for-ransom charges, was allegedly seen in one of the safe houses where police said his group of seven allegedly brought their 3-year-old victim on Feb. 17. Sr. Insp. Aldrin Juaneza, of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, said he saw Roldan in front of a house in West Avenue, Quezon City. He is the first prosecution witness to mention Roldan's name in the ongoing hearing at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Graft raps filed vs Fresnedi

MUNTINLUPA City Councilor Rene Carl Cayetano yesterday filed a graft complaint before the Ombudsman against Mayor Jaime Fresnedi for contracting the building of nine covered courts, a recycling facility and a technical without the consent of the city council. Fresnedi, apparently not surprised with Cayetano's move, said he was ready to answer the complaint. "Most probably we will cite the e-procurement law. We have evidence," the mayor told the INQUIRER. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

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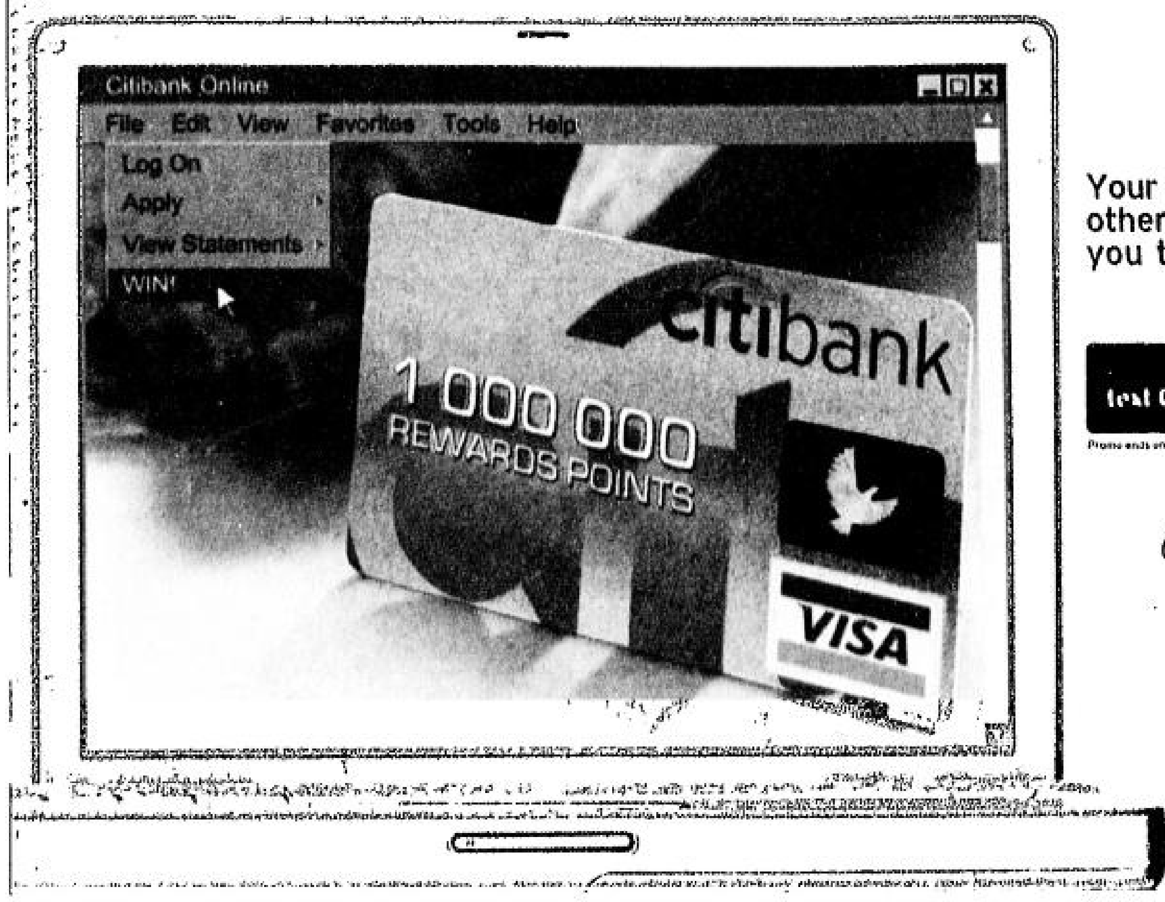

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Depot eviction fears haunt 3 oil firms

By Abigail L. Ho and Tina G. Santos

OIL FIRMS PETRON CORP., PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have again raised fears that they could be evicted from their depot in Pandacan with the imminent passage of a Manila City government ordinance that would reclassify the location of the depot into anything other than industrial.

Under the Manila Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance of 2005, the Pandacan depot area could be reclassified into a commercial/residential area, making operations no longer suitable there.

"We won't know where to go if it's reclassified to commercial," an oil industry official said. "We've complied with all the conditions in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Manila government, and they're still planning to evict us."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza insists that the oil firms must leave the depot. "We never talked about the oil firms' continued stay in Pandacan. The city government's stand remains that the oil firms would, one day, have to leave the area," the mayor told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Reclassification

City Ordinance 8027 provided for the reclassification of the oil depot's location from an industrial to a commercial zone. It took effect April 30, 2003 with the expiration of the MOU between City Hall and the oil firms.

To prevent the total closure of the depot, the oil firms signed an agreement with the city government to scale down its operations there as well as provide a "green buffer zone" between the oil tanks and the residential area.

In the meantime, Atienza said the city government had demanded that oil companies should implement safety measures particularly aimed at protecting residents living in the vicinity of the oil facility.

"So far, the oil firms have been complying with our agreement, but that doesn't change the fact that they should relocate sooner or later," he added. "The most viable option is still a scale down. We're urging the oil firms to accelerate the removal of all other structures."

Under the agreement, the three oil companies were required to dismantle 28 of the 54 tanks in the depot. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) terminals in the depot also had to be removed.

The oil official said Petron, Shell and Caltex had complied with these and other conditions stated in the MOU, adding that the oil firms did not want to vacate the Pandacan depot then and would not want to leave now because of supply issues that would arise if they do so.

The Pandacan oil depot supplies around 50 percent of Luzon's fuel needs and around 82 percent of Metro Manila's gasoline and diesel requirements. It also provides fuel to the neighboring provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Three years ago, the Department of Energy said a premature closure of the terminal would reduce fuel supply by 40 percent, resulting in even higher fuel costs.

But it may not be a lost cause for the oil firms as the new ordinance has a provision regarding structures that may be deemed of national significance.

Section 54 of the ordinance states: "Projects may be deemed by the National Economic and Development Authority Board as projects of national significance pursuant to Section 3 of EO 72. When a project is declared by the Neda board as a project of national significance, the zoning permit shall be issued by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board."

Who was first QC mayor?

By DJ Yap

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 66TH FOUNDING anniversary, Quezon City seeks to resolve a historical puzzle: who was its first mayor? The son of former Quezon City Mayor Tomas Morato believes it was his father. Manuel Morato, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office board member said his father was the first Quezon City mayor by virtue of an appointment made by Quezon on Oct. 12, 1939.

Hoping to settle the issue, Morato submitted documents at a forum yesterday. An essay by historian Bernardita Reyes Churchill also mentioned that "President Quezon himself assumed the functions corresponding to the Mayor, from Oct. 12 to Nov. 4, 1939, but without the formal appointment of a mayor. On Nov. 4, he appointed Tomas Morato, then acting Quezon City Chief of Police to be the Mayor."

Quezon's grandson, Manuel Quezon III, didn't make it to the forum, but had written in a newspaper: "It would be correct to state that Tomas Morato was appointed the first Mayor, but that for a short period of time, based on Manuel Morato's own chronology of events, President Quezon acted as officer-in-charge of the city named after him, until his hand-picked appointee could assume his duties."

SPORTS

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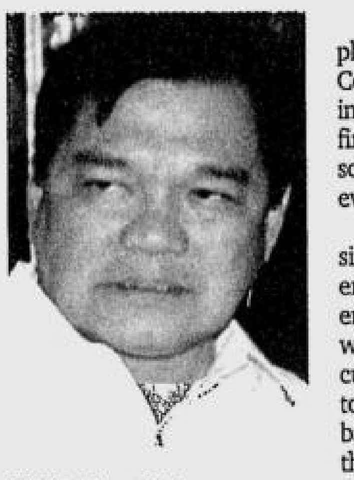
Peping, Joey try to end cage rift

Joint strategy for lifting of Fiba suspension expected in today's meeting

By Musong Castillo

COJUANGCO: No delays


LINA: Pivotal figure

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Basketball Association of the Philippines head Joey Lina will meet at a still undisclosed place tonight in an apparent bid to put and end to the basketball controversy hounding the country.

If things go well, a source close to Cojuangco said, the two are also expected to map out a plan to have the Philippines reinstated as an active member of the international basketball federation (Fiba).

The INQUIRER learned of a phone call that Lina made to Cojuangco yesterday morning, and the source confirmed that the two are scheduled to meet later this evening.

This marks the first time since the basketball dispute erupted in April that the leaders of the two warring groups will meet face-to-face to discuss a possible deal and to try to salvage the staging of the basketball competitions in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

The two officials could not be reached for comment last night, although Lina faxed a statement to media offices saying the BAP is open to a dialogue "so we can immediately solve the present dilemma and unite the basketball stakeholders, once and for all."

Lina is a pivotal figure in the lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines after the world governing body of basketball

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Paying athletes

3
days to go before
23rd SEA Games

MALAYSIA WILL SEND JUST A little over 400 athletes for the coming Southeast Asian Games, including some who are paying their way to carry their country's colors, according to chef de mission Low Beng Choo. Athletes who have not won at least a silver in the past SEAGs or who don't show enough promise to win medals are not being funded by the Malaysian government. Those who failed to qualify but desire to go, however, are made to pay for their own expenses. They will be refunded if they win a silver or gold in their events.

* * *

WHOEVER said that sports and politics don't mix? They haven't talked with Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella. The country's hosting of the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games is not only an avenue where the Philippines can gain regional recognition, according to Puentevella. He said the biennial spectacle will give this politically divided nation a break from all the current political intramurals. "There will be a moratorium on politics for one month," Puentevella predicted. "We need new heroes to come out (of sports) and not the usual politicians marching along Ayala (Avenue in Makati)." Musong R. Castillo

Kings mix it up with Tigers; Aces battle Realtors

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Barangay Ginebra
7:25 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Alaska

OUTSIDE BARANGAY Ginebra, there's no one more familiar with Siot Tanquingcen's coaching style than Binky Favis.

Coca-Cola's Favis will try to exploit that inside information when the Tigers open their campaign against the Kings today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

"They (Kings) don't worry much about their opponents," said Favis, who sat as Tanquingcen's deputy during the Kings' title march through the transition Fiesta Cup and All-Filipino conferences last season.

"They just maximize what they have and focus more on their execution, instead of thinking what the other team might do."

With 2004-05 MVP Eric Menk sidelined by citizenship problems, Tanquingcen will lean on Romel Adducul and Andy Seigle to fend off the Tigers' overhauled frontline in the conference also sponsored by Extreme Magic Sing.

Already formidable down low with Ali Peek around, the Tigers packed their middle by picking Billy Mamaril and Carlo Sharma from the pool of players orphaned by Shell's disbandment.

Import-wise, the Tigers have had the luxury of working Alex Carcamo into their system. Ginebra, on the other hand, has had only a day to get a feel of Sean Lampley, who arrived from the US just this past weekend to replace the ineffective Mustapha Hoff.

Ginebra, however, has an idea of what Lampley can do, and the latter has an idea of the PBA brand of play, having reinforced Red Bull before.

"Hopefully, he could blend well with the team when we go up against Coca-Cola," said Tanquingcen, the PBA Press Corps coach of the year last season.

In the other game, Sta. Lucia Realty will debut against powerhouse Alaska at 7:25 p.m. The Aces made their already formidable lineup even more menacing by acquiring Tony Dela Cruz and Rich Alvarez from the defunct Shell.

The Realtors managed to get a pair of promising rookies in Alex Cabagnot and Cesar Catli, whose addition has filled the spaces in the backcourt. Coach Alfrancis Chua hopes the two can jell with his twin towers Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino. *June Navarro*

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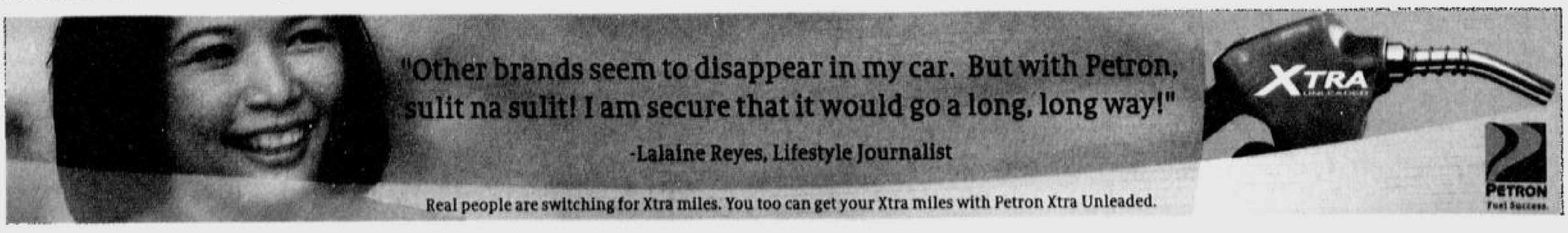
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Puentevella pushes for retention of sports budget

PUENTEVELLA

BACOLOD CITY REP. MONICO PUENTEVELLA is moving heaven and earth to have the budget allotted for Philippine sports be retained for the year 2006.

The pitch is being done by the former sports commissioner in the light of the meager financial support local sports is expected to receive from next year's national budget.

Only P27 million has been allocated for the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) out of the P1.03 trillion budget the government will have for 2006.

The amount is a far cry from the P104 million the government sports agency had gotten this year.

"A P27 million budget for Philippine sports is an insult to the Filipino athletes," said the fiery congressman as he appeared in the weekly PSA Forum at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

"'*Yung ganung* budget is only good for a week *sa ibang bansa* (In other countries, that budget is only good for a week)," he added. "If we want to perform well, we have to pay the price. *Ang hirap sa ating Filipino, gusto lang natin manalo. Pero ayaw namang gumastos* (The problem with us Filipinos is we want to win but we don't want to spend for it)."

This developed as the president of the country's weightlifting association declared in the same forum sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, PAGCOR and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza that the Filipinos are now very much prepared to host the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Despite the limited budget, preparations for the hosting of the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 meet according to Puentevella, are almost complete.

And he believes the Filipino athletes are going to perform to the best of their abilities and will have a good chance of winning the overall title for the first time ever.

"*Kung manalo tayo* as overall champion, *maganda ang Pasko natin* (If we win the overall title, Christmas will be a good one for us)," he said.

Puentevella revealed he already explained to officials of the Department of Budget under Secretary Romulo Neri during a recent budget hearing the need to hike the PSC fund for next year.

Santos puts focus on FEU title chase

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—Ateneo
vs Adamson (Women-Game 2)
1p.m.—La Salle
vs UP (Jrs-Game 2)
3 p.m.—Awards rites
3:30 p.m.—FEU
vs La Salle (Srs-Game 2)

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE MAY BE THE MOST TALKED-about amateur cager lately, but Arwind Santos would rather have people pay attention to his game.

After all, tomorrow could be a momentous day for the Far Eastern U superstar. Not only will Santos be shooting for his second UAAP championship crown, but he's also heavily favored to bag his second straight Most Valuable Player award.

"We lost to La Salle by a small margin (68-65) in the Finals last year," said Santos in Filipino. "This is my purpose, that's why I didn't join the PBA draft. I wanted a rematch."

And his competitiveness seemed to have been fueled even more after La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado hit him on the back of his head seconds after FEU's Game 1 victory (75-73) last Thursday.

ARWIND Santos has turned his back on a controversy to focus on stopping Joseph Yeo and La Salle.

Santos would rather not recall the controversial incident. Instead, he's putting all his energies preparing for the Tamaraws' big game.

"I've been telling my teammates that we're a very strong team if we just all give our best," said Santos, who also powered the Tamaraws' 2003 championship run. "Even in practice, I've been showing them that I'm not relaxing."

In Game 1, Santos clearly showcased why he's touted as the country's best amateur player. Doing everything he could to lead the Tamaraws past the defending champions, Santos came through the clutch for a 75-73 victory.

Santos buried a game-tying triple and the deciding putback with 5.5 seconds left that capped his game-long brilliance. He dished an all-around performance of 29 points, 14 rebounds, two steals and three blocks.

The 6-foot-4 forward, though, maintained that it has been all about teamwork for the Tamaraws.

"I can't just do this on my own," he said. "I need the help of my teammates."

Still, it remains clear that it's Santos who's leading the Tamaraws in phenomenal fashion.

"We have to prove that we're No. 1," he said. "We're able to do this all season, so we should also reach our goal, and that is to win the championship."

"We have to work on even the small things like our free throws," added Santos. "Coach (Bert Flores) has been telling us that we're the only ones who can win this, so we have to work hard."

Boxing spotlight on RP again this Sunday

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THEY ARE THE CLOSEST OF SIBLINGS. But it's hard to mistake Bobby Pacquiao for the younger brod of the fabulous Manny Pacquiao.

They don't share distinct features.

They also own very different fighting styles.

Manny, the elder, is a screaming, big-hearted slasher.

Bobby, the dusky younger brother, could, at best, be called a contemplative slugger.

In short, they own contrasting reputations.

Manny is a feared warrior, while Bobby was often a welcome opponent to young and old aspirants in the beak-breaking business.

* * *

In case you haven't heard, Bobby Pacquiao will be featured in a major card in Las Vegas on Sunday.

It's no ordinary ring outing.

Bobby, the younger, will be stepping before the world underneath the much-awaited Pico Corrales-Jose Castillo rematch.

The spotlight will be on Bobby, who will carry the famous trademark of his brother as he tries to affirm the newfound reputation of Pinoy boxers on the heels of the sensational 3-for-3 Philippine knockout parade spearheaded by Manny at the Staples Center in LA on Sept. 11.

* * *

It's like this. If it's hotshot Manny, the sensational KO artist, who's next fighting in a major card in Las Vegas, there would've been great excitement in local boxing circles, mainly in the slum areas where Pacman has come to be revered and worshipped.

But it's Bobby who will fight to stake the newfound worth of Filipino boxers in the boxing world.

It can't be helped. The big bout involving the younger of the Pacquiao brothers has been received with great concern hereabouts.

It's no ordinary Latino Bobby will be facing in Carlos "Famoso" Hernandez, former IBF super-featherweight king who's on a comeback trail.

In fact, there were suspicious whispers on why Bobby was being put up against a formidable foe.

* * *

Is Bobby Pacquiao being fed to the lions?

The sudsy pairing may indeed appear criminal, mainly to those who have full knowledge of the credentials of both Bobby and Famoso.

Bobby, says an informant from the heart of boxing hotbed Cebu, has a stomach soft as marshmallow.

And Famoso? He has a heart as big as El Salvador.

Added another pundit: Bobby has two chances against Famoso Hernandez of the Dominican Republic—slim and none.

* * *

But do take heart. The situation may not be as hopeless as the fight charts reveal.

Bobby Pacquiao, for one, is coming in from a sensational stoppage of the highly rated Carlos Navarro, ertswhile conqueror of RP's Luisito Espinosa, former world bantamweight and featherweight boxing champion.

Bobby is picking the biggest purse in his up-down-up-again career, $90,000.

Still, the biggest thing going for Bobby is the presence in his corner on Sunday of elder brod Manny.

It could be that Manny had infected his younger brother with his sharpness and ferocity when Bobby stopped his highly favored foe in his last outing.

But more than power and skills, Bobby will have to wrap steel pads around his belly to ward off the bombs Famoso is expected to unload.

In short, Bobby will have to surpass himself.

Pray that Manny's glowing presence works the magic.

'Vertek' tops Adidas Asian 10-K in SK

DIMINUTIVE Eduardo Buenavista (002) takes the front for good.

EDUARDO "VERTEK" BUENAVISTA bested a tough international field in Chungcheong, South Korea, Sunday to crown himself the 2005 Adidas King of the Road.

The 27-year-old Buenavista, arguably the Philippines' finest long-distance runner, cruised to victory before a big finish-line crowd in 29 minutes and 16 seconds over the 10 km distance.

The 234-strong predominantly Korean field included three other international runners aside from Buenavista, the diminutive runner from South Cotabato who is one of the country's best hopes for gold medal in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

The Filipino broke away from the pack early in the race and coasted to victory. He won $1,800 cash and $1,000 worth of Adidas products.

The Adidas King of the Road race, which started in Hong Kong in 1981, is considered one of the most important middle-distance running events in Asia.

Buenavista, whose stint in Korea was supported by Adidas and Globe Gentxt, gained the right to represent the country by topping the King of the Road race at The Fort last year.

The Adidas King of the Road race in Manila is scheduled on Oct. 16, according to the organizing Adidas Phils. For inquiries, call 727-9987.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved	Source of
2005-281	200 units BATTERY Maintenance-Free/Sealed Type 12 Volts DC x 110 AH (including pull-out of old units and installation of brand new ones)	P 2,900,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on October 26, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **October 13, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI - October 5 & 12, 2005)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner V. A, Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4925; Fax No. 841-4927; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of rice covering the period October 2005 to June 2006. Relevant information and schedule of events are presented below.

Particulars	
Source of Funding	2005 budget
Approved Budget	P1,500.00 per sack
Estimated Quantity	560 sacks/month [Variety – Sinandomeng (Premium)] Actual number of sacks may vary from month to month depending on the number of PDIC employees entitled for rice allowance in a given month
Duration	October 2005 to June 2006
Minimum Requirements:	Farmers' cooperatives/corporations duly accredited By the National Food Authority (NFA)
Availability of Instruction to Bidders/Terms of Reference	Starting September 28, 2005 8:00am – 5:00pm 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782, Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City
Pre-Bid Conference	October 07, 2005 – 9:00AM 7th Floor PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals; opening of said requirements/proposals shall follow immediately	October 21, 2005 – Until 9:00AM 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782, Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St. Makati City

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid, Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all cost associated with the bidders' participation in the biding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI-October 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS
New Administration Building, Miag-ao Campus
Tel. No. (033) 315-8141; (033) 315-9631 local 180
Fax No.: (033) 315-8141
E-mail: upv-bacsec@yahoo.com
Website Address: http://www.upv.edu.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to re-bid of the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	CONTRACT DURATION
Supply of Security Services for UP in the Visayas campuses, Batan Manculture Station, Marine Biological Station, Brackishwater Aquaculture Center, and its training & research vessel *"TRV Sardinella"*	▪ Miagao Campus ▪ Iloilo City Campus ▪ Batan, Aklan ▪ Taklong Island, Guimaras ▪ Leganes, Iloilo ▪ Iloilo City Pier	P 6,500,000.00	One (1) year

Prospective Bidders should have a capitalization of not less than P3M (to allow comparability of Bids), have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years, and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased, or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Bidders are deemed to have become familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the Philippines which may affect the contract in any way.

The Schedule of activities is listed as follows:

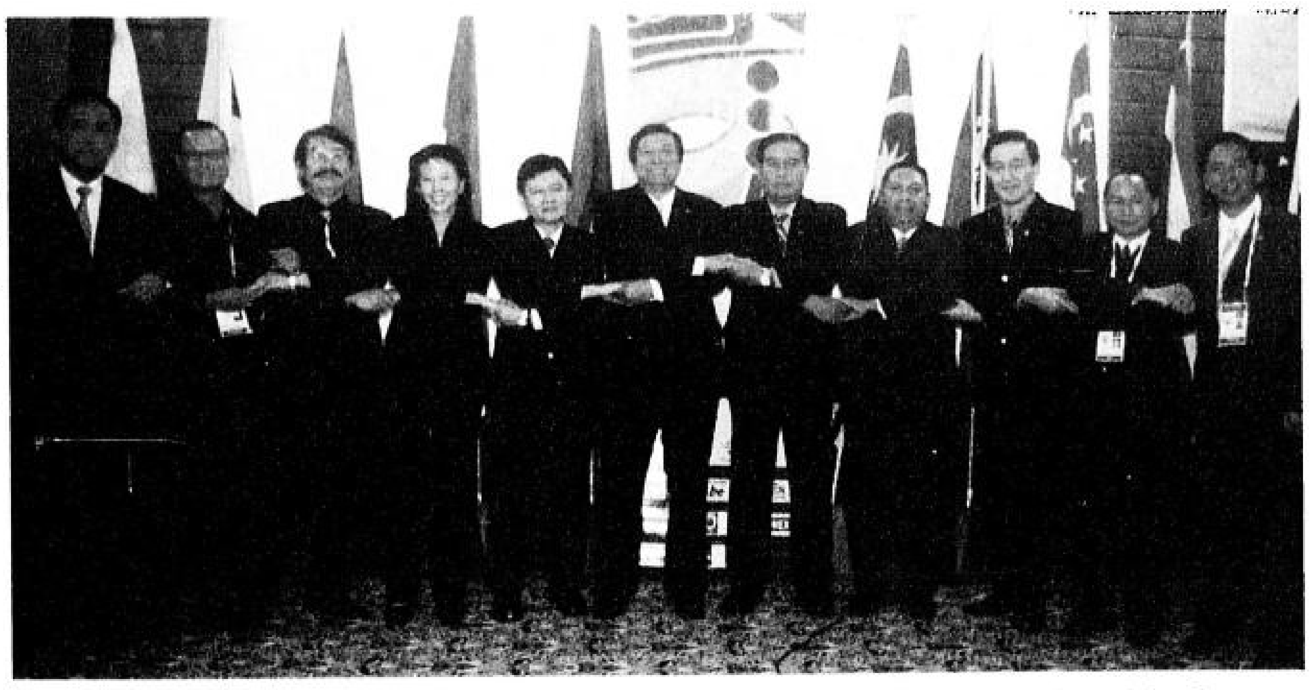
Activities	Schedules	Venue
Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)	October 20-24, 2005	BAC Secretariat, Miag-ao Campus
Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25-28, 2005	BAC Secretariat, Miag-ao Campus
Site Inspection	October 27-28, 2005	c/o Mr. Vicente Cortez, Chief, Security Services Office, UP Visayas
Pre-Bid Conference	November 2, 2005, 2:00 PM	Tea Room, Cafeteria Bldg., Iloilo City Campus
Opening of Bids	November 18, 2005, 2.00 PM	Tea Room, Cafeteria Bldg., Iloilo City Campus

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount the University Cashier of P5,000.00.

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. CARLOS C. BAYLON
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 5 & 11, 2005)



UNITED FOR SEAG: Chiefs of Mission of the participating countries in the 2005 Philippine Southeast Asian Games pose for posterity during the Chiefs of Mission meeting at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City. PSC chair Butch Ramirez (sixth from left, representing RP Chef de Mission and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo) join hands with Jafar Bangkoz (Brunei), Bun Yi Prum (Cambodia), Djoko Pramono (Indonesia), Somphou Phongsa (Laos), Low Beng Choo (Malaysia), Thuang Htike (Myanmar), Jin Teik Oon (Singapore), Thana Chaiprasit (Thailand), Antonio XI Menes (Timor Leste) and Nguyen Hong Minh (Vietnam).

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAMON VECINA

Gold medal mania harmful, say chiefs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HOST COUNTRIES' PRACTICE of including sports where they can win more gold medals and thus get stronger chances of winning the Southeast Asian Games' overall crown is harmful to the ideals of the biennial meet and should be stopped.

Malaysia's chef de mission Low Beng Choo voiced out this opinion yesterday at the end of the four-day conclave of the heads of delegations from 11 countries for the Games.

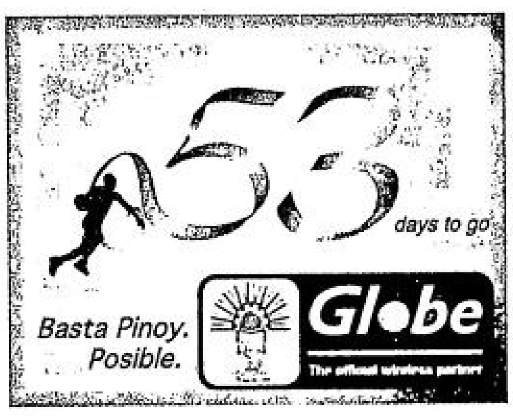
Low called the "unhealthy trend" the "gold medal mania."

"I think it's better to go back to the original objective of the SEA Games, which is to develop games that are played in the Olympics, Commonwealth and Asian Games so that the region will have a platform to compete in the international level," said Low. "And not for every country to include sports where the country can win more gold medals.

"It has been a gold medal mania created by the media."

Choo said the SEAG became so big, it has become a burden for the host country of the next Games.

"It's time to scale it down to a certain size," she said. "The Philippines is hosting 41 sports, Thailand in 2007 may have more; Laos may not be able to host it (on that scale) in 2009."



Low spoke at the press conference headed by RP chef de mission and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, SEAG Task Force and Philippine Olympic Committee second vice president Harry Angping and POC president and Philsoc chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

The alarming trend began in 1995 in Chiang Mai, where host Thailand wrapped up the overall title, and continued in the 1997 Games in Jakarta won by Indonesia. The number of sports was only cut in 1999, when Brunei hosted the Games for the first time with only 22 events.

In 2001, Malaysia had the prerogative to choose the events and, as expected, won its first overall title. Then came Vietnam which lorded the 2003 Games in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh with 156 gold medals.

Unfortunately for the Philippines, the SEAG Federation has considerably cut down the host country's power in choosing which sports are included. This has allowed the country just a few additions like dancesports, arnis and some events in shooting, while re-inserting golf, marathon and tenpin bowling.

Still, the chefs de mission are confident the country can host a successful SEA Games. They even gave the Philippines a 9 (on a scale of 1-to-10) in terms of preparedness.

Peping, Joey try to . . .

From page A23

specifically named him as one of at least five stakeholders required to be part of a new unified basketball group that will be formed.

The Fiba, in a memorandum of agreement signed with the POC last week, ordered the formation of the new federation that, among others, should include five major stakeholders: the PBA, PBL, UAAP, NCAA and Lina.

Key officials from four of the stakeholders said they are amenable to the formation of the new group—which, if formed, will lead to the lifting of the Fiba suspension—with Lina the only one hedging.

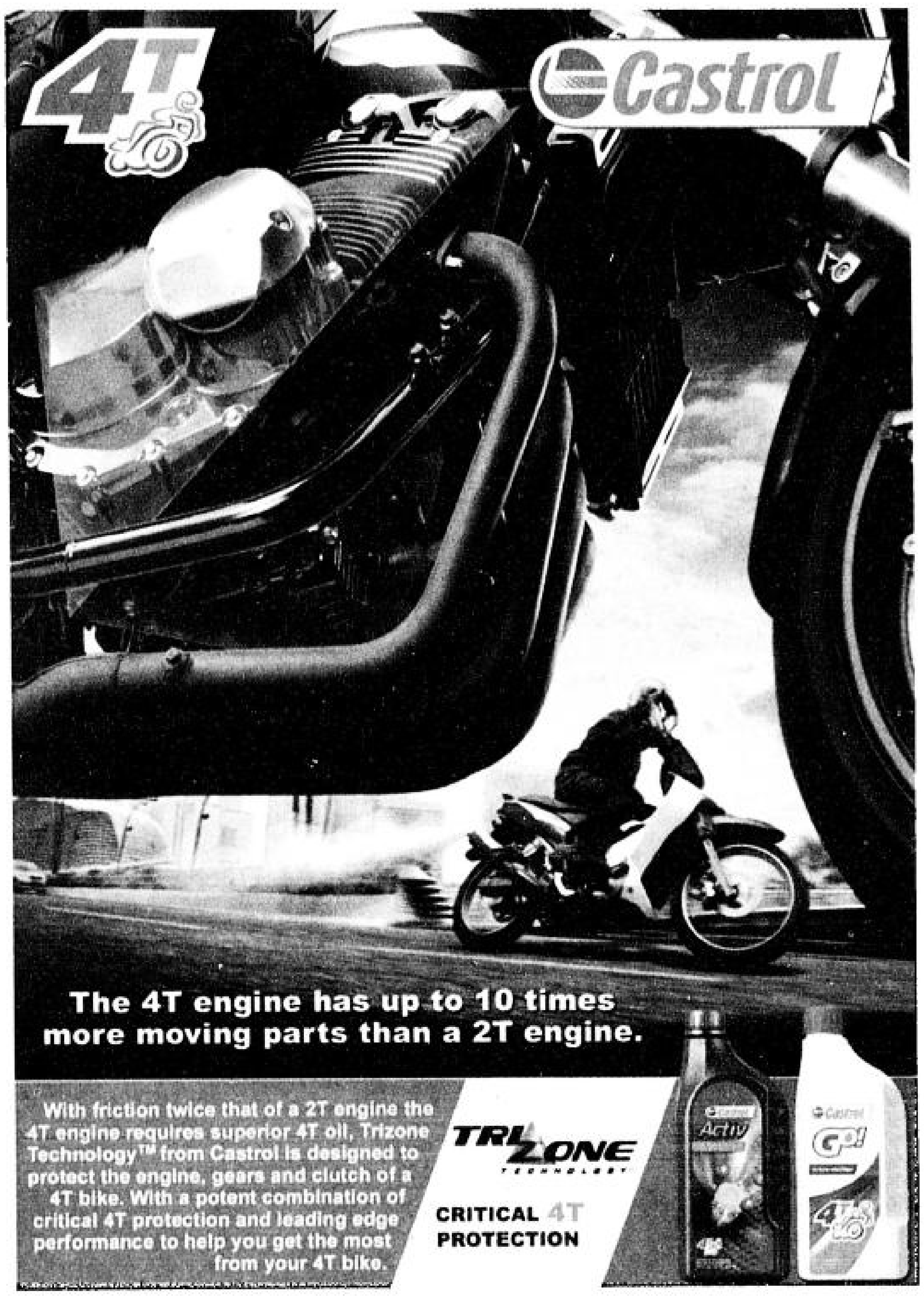
"I will seek a clarification with [Fiba secretary general Patrick] Baumann first," an INQUIRER report quoted Lina as saying last Saturday.

Told of Lina's plans to seek a clarification from the Fiba, Cojuangco also told the INQUIRER last Sunday that the BAP will only have itself to blame if it delays the formation of the new group.

"If they delay this, it's their fault," Cojuangco stressed. "*Huwag na silang magtuturo sa POC na kami ang may kasalanan* (They shouldn't blame on us). It's in their hands now."

Besides, Cojuangco said, Baumann had warned him after they signed the MOA that "this is not a temporary solution so that [this issue] should [no longer] come back to us."

Cojuangco, in the meantime, will present POC chair Robert Aventajado and legal counsel Ding Tanjuatco to the media at 11 a.m. today so the two can provide further details on their meeting with Baumann in Switzerland.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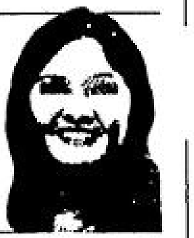
Kris and Cris

In Huddle



Beth Celis

KRIS AQUINO, THE TELEVISION GAME-show host, and Cris Aquino, the arms/ammunition dealer, were at the Araneta Coliseum last Sunday cheering for the same team: the Purefoods Chunkee Giants.

Cris has been a Purefoods fan since the late '80s. He's the robust guy who wears the crazy hotdog hat.

Kris also goes that far back. The only difference is, while she was rooting for Alvin Patrimonio then, now she hollers and applauds for James Yap.

* * *

A staunch Manny Pacquiao supporter, Cris was in the boxing champ's table during the dinner hosted by Solar Sports at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in honor of champs Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Boom Boom Bautista.

Cris' friendship with Pacman also dates back to the days when the latter was not yet famous and successful. He's the fellow who donated dozens of Pacquiao T-shirts and lost more than $20,000 in bets during the fight against Erik Morales in Las Vegas.

Highlight of last Monday night's affair was a Tagalog song rendered by Manny, accompanied by a popular band.

Incidentally, would you believe that Boom Boom's first taste of blood was not in the ring, but in one of the dirt roads in his hometown in Candijay, Bohol, when he was only 9 years old?

* * *

Quinito Henson, the evening's emcee, related the anecdote: Boom Boom was on his way home when his bike crashed into a pile of thorny bamboos. A thorn pierced his head.

Blood gushed from his wound and down his face but Boom Boom was unfazed. He got back to his feet, shook off the dust, left his bike and hobbled back home on foot.

In order not to lose precious blood, Boom Boom said he licked the dripping blood and swallowed it. Good thing he didn't turn into a vampire. If I heard it correctly, it was Boom Boom's father who fainted at the sight of blood on his young son.

This gory incident was narrated by Quinito while everyone was having dinner.

* * *

Red Bull's George Chua was the only team owner who graced last Sunday's PBA opening. Or, he was the only one I saw.

Come to think of it, George is the only team owner who comes to the games regularly to watch his ballclub play. He has done this religiously since Red Bull joined the PBA five years ago.

"I must have missed only a total of five games since we joined the league. And in two of these absences, I was abroad," said George, who has a record perfect attendance in all the semis games of Red Bull.

* * *

Even if Ateneo failed to make the UAAP finals, alumnus and former cheerleader Jess Paredes said Norman Black retains his post as Blue Eagles head coach.

They have been trying to get an alumnus to do the job, but none seems to be available or acceptable at the moment, he explained.

"*Meron sanang* candidate. He's definitely qualified for the post. *Kaya lang*, the alumni association gave him the thumbs down because he left his wife and ran off with the spouse of a fellow Ateneo alumnus," said Jess, who hosts the radio program that precedes my "Usapang Sports" over dzME.

Jess would not reveal the identity of the fellow but hinted that he's now connected with a PBA team.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Elmer Sta. Maria, who keeps his eyes and ears open for the showbiz link to the PBA, reports that suspended PBA cager Alex Crisano and sexpot-comedienne Ethel Booba have parted ways. But he said Alaska's Rich Alvarez and Kyla, and Ateneo's Doug Kramer and Cheska Garcia are going stronger than ever… Elmer said a controversial PBA star who is estranged from his wife, is currently being linked to former Viva Hot Babe Cheri Lou… The Barako rely on Red Bull assistant manager Andy Jao for the team's choice of import. So far, the team is extremely happy with his judgment. "Andy has a very good batting average. Our team has been performing well in import-laden conferences," said team manager Tony Chua… "I'm saddened that he has been suspended for two weeks but he deserves it," said Sheryl Reyes, Jimmy Alapag's sponsorship agent, when she was advised that the TNT coaching staff who peddled Alapag and Taulava T-shirts had been sanctioned by management… "We could have forgiven him for the offense *dahil nag*-apologize *naman siya. Kaya lang* he denied the deed before the PBA commissioner, making us look like liars.

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Turning pro to make 'Big Wiesy' even bigger

PARIS—THE BIGGEST GOLF MARketing feeding frenzy since Tiger Woods turned pro is about to be unleashed when teenage prodigy Michelle Wie makes her expected announcement on Wednesday to turn pro—six days before her 16th birthday.

Before she hits a golf ball as a professional, Wie will be a multimillionaire, thanks to deals with Nike and Sony.

She is being handled not by a recognized golf PR company but by Hollywood agency William Morris, better known for its dealings with movie stars such as Clint Eastwood and John Travolta.

Experts estimate Wie will earn between eight and $10 million in endorsements in her first year—making her the third highest paid woman athlete on the Forbes magazine wealthy list.

Only glamorous Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova ($16 million in endorsements) and Serena Williams ($11 million) earn more.

There is also talk of launching a special Wie clothing line as well a jewelry range, bringing in a possible 15 to 20 million dollars a year.

"Once the apparel line gets rolling and you have a couple other major endorsements her earning could reach $30-40 million a year," Brandon Steiner of Steiner Sports Marketing recently told USA Today.

Wie, who was born in Hawaii but with a Korean background, is also eyeing the lucrative Asian market.

The 15-year-old is already fluent in Korean and is studying Japanese and Chinese, making her market reach simply stunning.

But while no one begrudges "The Big Wiesy" her new found fortune, there are growing doubts among golf experts as to what she will bring to golf, and if golf will benefit from her presence.

Part of the unease is caused by Wie's determination to play on the men's Tour, going head-to-head against Woods, Ernie Els, Vijay Singh, Phil Mickelson et al.

Wie's coach David Leadbetter has no doubt she will cut it in the men's ranks.

But while comparisons are made between Wood's dramatic launch onto the professional circuit and Wie's there is no comparison.

Woods already had three US Amateur titles under his belt in three years as well as three US Junior Amateur victories, a proven winner.

Wie has only one significant victory on her CV—the 2003 US Women's Amateur Public Links championship. *AFP*

WIE: Pro-bound AP

RP duo eyes World Cup slot

Que, Rosales hope 3rd time's a charm

QUE: It was lack of experience then.

SHAH ALAM, MALAYSIA—The exciting combination of Angelo Que and Gerald Rosales will be hoping to be third time lucky when they compete in the World Cup Qualifier at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club starting on Thursday.

The Filipino duo are rated among Asia's rising stars, with Que winning last year's Carlsberg Masters Vietnam and featuring in the victorious Asian team that lifted the Visa Dynasty Cup over Japan in April.

But as a combination with Rosales, who won the 2000 Philippine Open, they are two for naught in the World Cup Qualifier. They have played together since 2003 but have found more frustration than joy.

"I think we'll do good this time," said the 29-year-old Rosales.

"This week, we'll have to make a lot of putts to finish as the top-two teams and avoid the big numbers in the foursomes (alternate shot) format."

A total of 12 teams, including Malaysia's Danny Chia and Iain Steel, will tee up at Kota Permai with the top-two nations on Sunday qualifying for the World Cup in Portugal this November.

The first and third rounds will use the fourball better ball format while the second and final rounds will use the foursomes format (alternate shot).

Que, 27, remembers well their first outing as a team in Singapore two years ago. They were in contention for a World Cup ticket on the final day but succumbed to pressure, four-putting the 17th green for a double bogey and three-putting the last hole for bogey to miss out by three strokes.

"It was a lack of experience then," said Que, who holed the winning putt for Asia in the triumph over Japan in the Dynasty Cup.

Should the Filipinos succeed in their goal this week, it would be bitter-sweet for Que as it would mean missing his title defense of the Carlsberg Masters Vietnam, which will be held during the same week as the World Cup.

"It's miss or make for me. If I qualify for the World Cup with Gerald, I'll certainly go to Portugal as it's a big event with many top players competing," Que said.

"It does mean having to miss my Vietnam defense, which would be a shame as that tournament has been good to me.

"I remember that win well as I didn't have a full card on Tour and winning there meant I can now pick and choose my events. It was overwhelming then to win," said Que.

While India withdrew from the Qualifier as Jyoti Randhawa and Arjun Atwal, both former Asian number ones, have gained direct entry to Portugal through their official World Golf Ranking, neighbors Pakistan are hoping to upset the odds and join India alongside the world's elite.

Last year, Pakistan emerged as the surprise package, finishing fourth and just one stroke behind the third qualifier Taiwan.

Jenny falters

Meanwhile, in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, Han Hee-won fired a final 68 and won the Office Depot Championship Monday at the Trump National Golf Club.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines, who was just a shot off the lead after one round, faltered with a 77 in the darkness-hit event and ended up with a 213, 12 shots off pace. She earned $8,980. *AFP*

ROSALES: Maybe this time

Yankees see one playoff color: Red

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK YANKEES, STILL smarting from their defeat by Boston in last year's American League (AL) Championship Series, begin a new playoff chase this week that could bring a rematch with the world champion Boston Red Sox.

The Yankees, who edged Boston for this year's East Division title, face West winners the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim on Tuesday in the opening game of their best-of-five AL Division Series.

Wildcard Boston plays at the Central champion Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

In the National League, the Central-winning St. Louis Cardinals host the West champion San Diego Padres on Tuesday while the East-winning Atlanta Braves start their playoff bid on Wednesday at home to the wildcard Houston Astros.

The four winners advance to their respective league championship series.

At the equivalent stage in 2004, Boston came back to stun arch rival New York after trailing 3-0 in the best-of-seven series.

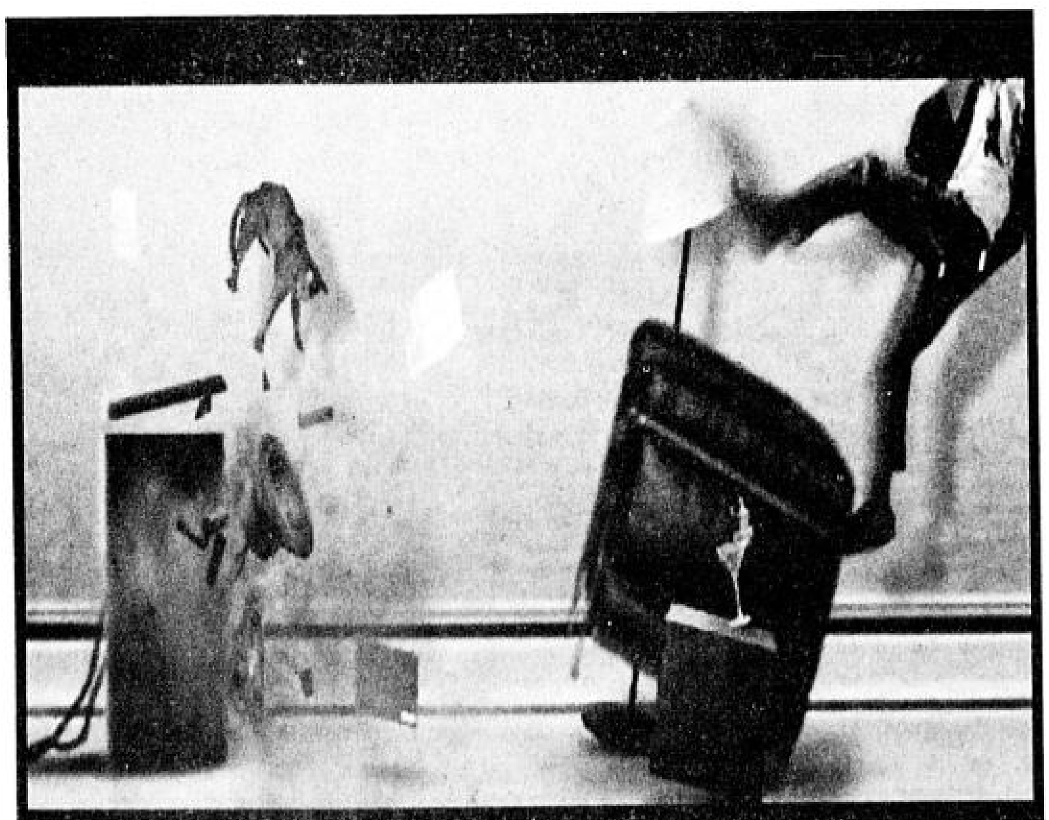
The Red Sox then followed up by sweeping St. Louis to claim their first World Series crown in 86 years.

The Yankees, despite being the highest-paid team in baseball with a $200 million payroll, last won a World Series in 2000, their third in a row.

Outspoken owner George Steinbrenner has been perplexed with a franchise that has won 26 World Series titles, nearly three times as many as the next best ballclub, the Cardinals.

"It is unbelievable to me that the highest-paid team in baseball would start the season in such a deep funk," Steinbrenner said after the Yankees began the campaign 4-8.

He had kinder words on Sunday after the Yankees clinched their eighth successive AL East title, saying "our team played like real warriors" in the closing days of the regular season when the Yankees won 16 of 20 games. *Reuters*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Bulls trade Curry

CHICAGO, Illinois—Chicago Bulls forward Eddy Curry has been dealt to the New York Knicks, the National Basketball Association club announced on its website on Monday. There were no details as to who the Bulls received from the Knicks. The 6-11 Curry missed the final 13 games of last season due to an irregular heartbeat and was eventually diagnosed with ventricular arrhythmia. Last season, Curry averaged 16.1 points on 54 percent shooting with 5.4 rebounds in 63 games. *AFP*

Amare deal extended

PHOENIX, Arizona—Phoenix Suns allstar Amare Stoudemire signed a five-year contract extension with the National Basketball League club on Monday. Financial terms were not disclosed, but the centerforward Stoudemire likely received the maximum allowed under the NBA's new collective bargaining agreement. Under the current salary cap structure, the 22-year-old Stoudemire would make $72.5 million over the five years. The ninth overall pick in the 2002 draft, Stoudemire won NBA Rookie of the Year trophy. *AFP*

Hantuchova rips foe; Clijsters chases No. 1

FILDERSTADT, GERMANY—DANIELA Hantuchova beat Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-4, 6-0, Monday at the Porsche Grand Prix, where four of the world's top five players are entered.

Both top-seeded Lindsay Davenport and No. 2 Kim Clijsters will close to within a few points of Maria Sharapova's top ranking with a strong showing at the $650,000 indoor event. Clijsters could reach No. 1 if she makes it to the finals.

An injured Sharapova withdrew from the tournament, Justine Henin-Hardenne and Amelie Mauresmo also are playing.

Hantuchova, who reached the final in 2002 and was ranked fifth in 2003, has broken out of a slump and is back to No. 20. *AP*

HANTUCHOVA: Out of a slump. AP

RP dancers strut wares in nat'l championships

EVERYTHING IS SET FOR THE 9TH National Dance Championships under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines (DSCP) on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Philsports Multi-Purpose Arena.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said some 200 dance athletes are competing in both Latin American and Modern Standard discipline, with five International Dance Sport Federation licensed adjudicators acting as judges in the dancefest.

Hosting the affair are the DSCP board composed of Garcia, lawyer Noel Laman, chair; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and directors lawyer Andresito Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Crisaldo Rendon and Jerswin Poloyapoy.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, Philsport Complex, Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

For more details, call Anna Faye Lee at 635-0116.

Expected to see action are the country's SEA Games athletes in Latin and Standard disciplines—Philippine Sportswriters Association awardees Reynato Rener Mercado and Judity Anne Melencio and the pair of Brian Joseph and Karla Ocana.

The event is sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, TheraHerb VCO and AccuHerb Sugarcheck by Splash Pharmaceuticals, Petron Corp., Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Water Zone, Savannah Moon, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, The Manila Times and BMW Philippines.

The RP dancers are hoping to get the country off to a good start by gunning for the first gold of the biennial meet, which kicks off Nov. 27, at the Waterfron Hotel in Lahug, Cebu.

A Cebu IDSF open will be held the following day at the same venue.

Tough test awaits 101 triathletes

A HUNDRED AND ONE TRIATHLETES, among them defending champions Alvin Alindogan and Nona Torres will be competing in the long distance WRT 2005 Saturday, Oct. 8, at the White Rock Beach Resort, Olongapo City, Subic Bay, Province of Zambales.

The swim leg kicks off at the White Rock Beach resort while the 90-km flat bike course will pass through several towns of Zambales.

The true test, though, will be the 21-km run course, which will enter the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and go through the notoriously difficult "Heartbreak Hills."

This year's WRT will be using a state-of-the-art RFID electronic timing system that will assure accurate and fast race results for each athlete.

The race categories are: Individual Age Group, Individual Elite (Male only) and Relay. For race details contact 4389021 or 0920-9129102.

GK football team tryouts lure 60 kids

TRYOUTS FOR THE RED RIBBON-GAWAD Kalinga (GK) football team begun last weekend with 60 boys and girls from different GK villages at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City vying for slots.

GK head coach Joaqui Preysler supervised the trials that will continue through this week. The Philippine Football Federation (PFF) has donated 20 footballs to help the team get started.

The GK organization, which is embarking on a mission of nation building through home and community building, has volunteered children, ages 7-13, of its "Sagip" program, to the football squad.

The formation of the Red Ribbon-Gawad Kalinga football team was announced by Ed Formoso, promotion and publicity man of the PFF, on Monday. His concept of "good for football, football for good" has the blessings and backing of Danny Moran, former national booter and president of Red Ribbon Bakeshop, and PFF president Johnny Romualdez.

The football concept began to take shape in last year's Red Ribbon U-14 Tournament when several provincial football associations of the PFF, in addition to trophies and medals, gave scholarships to their Most Valuable Players. Doing 'football for good' continued until the season ending "2005 Red Ribbon Football Fiesta" in December at Ateneo, where many of the competing teams brought relief goods for the victims of the Nueva Ecija flood.

The Red Ribbon-Gawad Kalinga football team is expected to debut early next year at the "Red Ribbon Football Fiesta."

1st Tumbok Cup benefits children

COMMEMORATIVE CAPS FOR THE 1ST TUMbok Cup will be given away this Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Santa Ana Park.

But Tumbok readers must be at the racing track as early as the first race because only the first 500 racing aficionados will receive the cap and a complimentary Tumbok copy.

The 1st Tumbok Cup, a charity stakes race sponsored by Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) in partnership with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, will have Hands On Manila as its beneficiary.

Hands On Manila, a volunteer organization making its mark in helping street children, will receive the race's prize of the day. Philracom, however, has put up a guaranteed P400,000 prize for the race.

Aside from being a charity stakes race, the 1st Tumbok Cup is an apprentice jockey race, providing novice riders a chance to show their skills in front of the Bayang Karerista.

Apprentice riders chosen to ride in the race are KS Bergancia, CV Garganta, CH Vicente Jr., JD Miralles, JE Apellido, RM Mamucod, IB Batoon, AI Berba, RL de Guzman and EA Orobio.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Irish Connection 2. Liar 3. Dondon's Entry 4. Black Peacock

Race 3—1. Ocean Deep/At All Cost 2. Pay to See 3. Casanova 4. Kim Possible 5. Nitty Gritty

Race 4—1. Speed Advantage 2. Cover Girl 3. High Octane/War Alert

Race 5—1. Hale and Hearty 2. Field Star 3. Hit the Wire 4. El Love Señora 5. Look Who's Playing

Race 6—1. Money Maker 2. Formidable Jaeda 3. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 4. Epic Energy

Race 7—1. Court General 2. Ravishing Raffy 3. Now Showing 4. Blitzkrieg 5. Sham Sham

Race 8—1. Blue Face 2. Brenda Starr 3. Valentine Dancer 4. Eden's Quest 5. Wing Away 6. Mercury Rising

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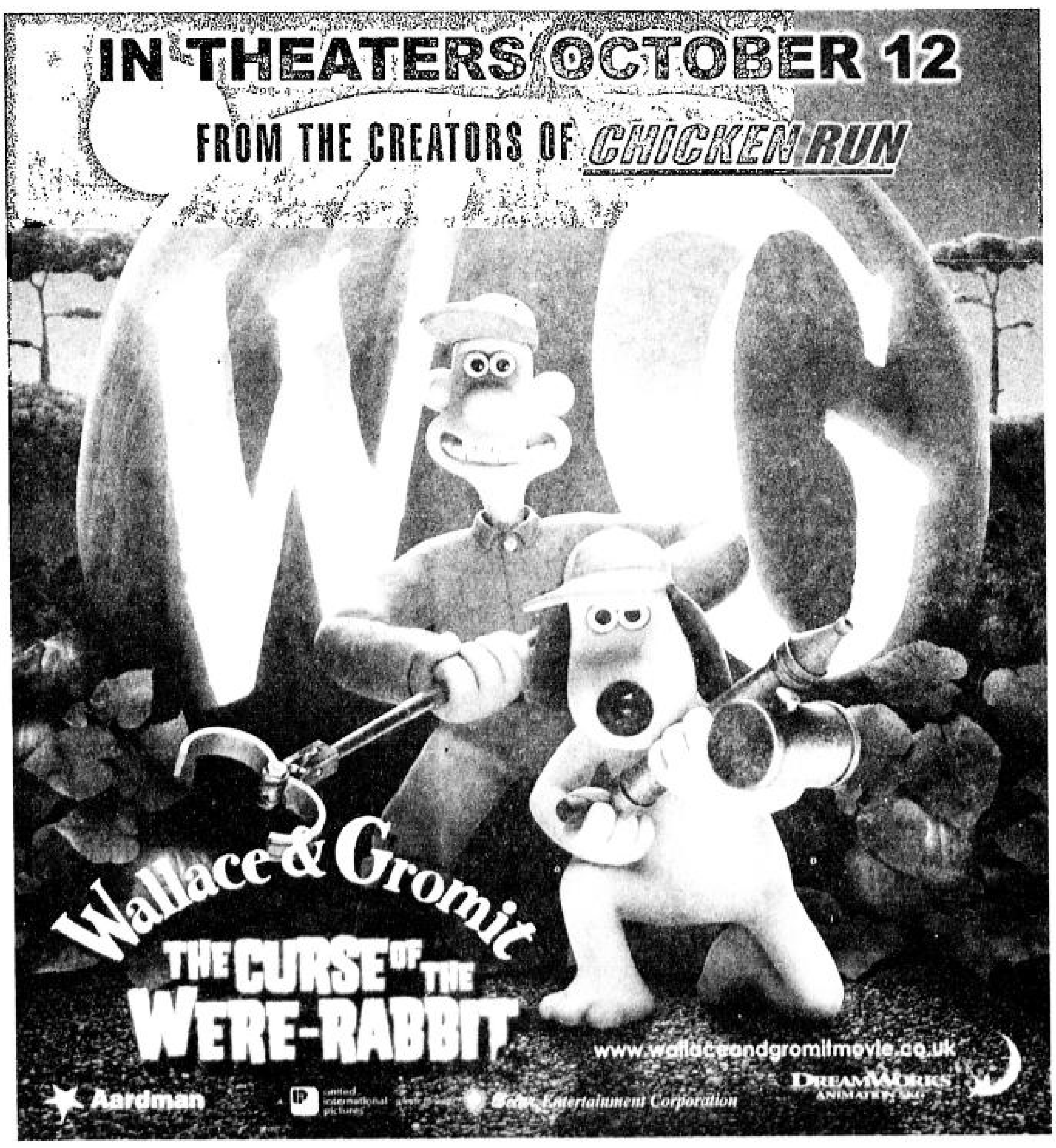
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08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
2 CORPSE BRIDE
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/07:00
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:25END

MEGAMALL
INTO THE BLUE
11:30FS/12:00MF/02:30/05:00/07:30
09:30LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:06LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END
2 INTO THE BLUE
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 DARK WATER
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:06LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 TIM BURTON'S: CORPSE BRIDE
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
8 A SOUND OF THUNDER
9 DUBAI
10 TRUMPETS:LITTLE MERMAID
11 PERFECT MAN
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PERFECT MAN
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TRANSPORTER 2
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 DUBAI
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN

SM NORTH EDSA
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 TIM BURTON'S: CORPSE BRIDE
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TIM BURTON'S: CORPSE BRIDE
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 PERFECT MAN
8 DARK WATER
9 DUBAI
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUBAI
6 DARK WATER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 ONE MISSED CALL 2
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 PERFECT CATCH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 PERFECT MAN
8 DARK WATER
9 ONE MISSED CALL 2
10 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM SAN LAZARO
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 PERFECT MAN
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 PERFECT MAN
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 DUBAI
3 PERFECT MAN
4 TRANSPORTER 2

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SISTERHOOD
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
5 TRANSPORTER 2
6 DUBAI
7 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 DUBAI
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DUBAI
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DARK WATER
4 THE CAVE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DARK WATER
4 PERFECT MAN
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
7 DUBAI
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RESERVED
8 LONG WEEKEND

SM CITY DAVAO
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 DARK WATER
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 CONSTANT GARDENER
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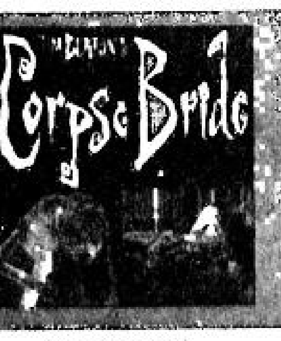
CORPSE BRIDE

INTO THE BLUE

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Top US boxing trainer coming Oct. 10

BOXING WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERica (BWAA) 2002 Trainer of the Year, James "Buddy" McGirt, and Manny Pacquiao's former cutman Lenny de Jesus of Puerto Rico are slated to arrive in the country next week to witness the Oct. 22 showdown between RP lightweight champ Fernando Montilla and Dexter "Dinamita" Delada.

McGirt, who maintains a gym in Vero Beach, Florida, is expected to fly to Cebu to oversee the training of some fighters belonging to the Wakee Salud Stable and young upstarts from Mindanao under North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

McGirt, who won the IBF junior welter and WBC welter titles in the late '80s and early '90s, plunged into retirement with a stellar record of 73-6-1, 48 KOs. He trains the likes of undisputed light-heavyweight king Antonio Tarver, ex-WBC lightweight boss Arturo Gatti, ex-WBA junior lightweight champ Joel Casamayor, Timo Hoffman, Mads Larsen and his son James Jr.

Former world superfly champ Gerry Peñalosa and Z "The Dream" Gorres had also undergone training under McGirt in the United States.

McGirt, who remains the only BWAA Trainer of the Year awardee to have won world titles of his own, and De Jesus, are expected to arrive on Oct. 10. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Patriots a win shy of crown

DASMARIÑAS—THE LA SALLE-Dasmariñas Patriots never gave the defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals a chance yesterday in Game 1 of the fourth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball finals.

The Patriots erupted with four triples in the first quarter and were never in trouble as they routed the Generals, 67-49, in their home-and-away best-of-three finals showdown at the La Salle-Dasmariñas gym.

Natchet Hasanon and Roger Nacpil banged in 12 points in helping the Patriots move a win closer to their first-ever crown in the four-year-old league.

Jesus Patambang scored only six points, but his two treys, and those of Hasanon and Nacpil enabled the Patriots to take charge in the first 10 minutes, 20-11.

Defense on productive EAC wingmen Bong Melocoton and Ronjay Buenafe during the Patriots' initial offensive run quickly took its toll on the Generals.

The Patriots will shoot for the crown on Friday when they take on the Generals at 11:30 a.m. in Game 2 at the EAC Sports Center.

Lagon solo derby titlist

SONNY Lagon, fielding his battle-crosses of Sweater, Kelso and Gilmore lines, topped two derbies recently. Lagon's Blue Blade entry scored an unbelievable 9 wins out of 9 matches last Monday with seven birds unscathed. Sonny's Blue Blade Jok-Jok-Jok (combined with Gerry Ramos) posted five perfect victories at the Makati Coliseum for a solo championship in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-Stag Derby. A separate full entry in the finals of the Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association's 7-stag battle beat all four opponents in an amazing display of speed, timing and precision cutting ability. Among Blue Blade's victims were entries of Armand Santos, Ramon Manzenares, Rudy Albano and James Uy.

GCAP 5-stag event today

AFICIONADOS can expect more than 70 quality fights today as the fourth leg of "Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby" gets going at the San Juan Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Two entries—McKinley of Rep. Jing Paras and Gengen Arayata and RT 114 of Ruel Ricafort—were declared co-champions last Sept. 27 in the GCAP 5-stag derby third leg after racking up four points each. GCAP founder Patrick Antonio is one of the top contenders. GCAP will hold its 5th derby at Las Piñas Coliseum on Oct. 12. Call 725 - 5665, 7255369 and 7277086 (Ariel).

Texas arena tiff resumes

THE SHOWDOWN OF upcoming gamefowl breeders resume today at Texas Cockpit Arena (Sumulong Highway, Bgry. Mayamot, Antipolo) when the "TCA 5-Stag Derby" second round eliminations unfolds at 2 p.m. According to TCA manager TJ Marquez, the guaranteed prize is raised to more than P1.5 million due to the unexpected influx of entries, which reached 174 as of yesterday. Entry fee is P8,800. Hosts of the three-day event (Oct. 3, 5 and 7) are Rizal breeders Boy Torres, Joey Mendoza and Doc Jovy. The championship round (3-stag) is slated on Friday, Oct. 7. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Thunderbird, Tukaan TV program, B-Meg and Purina. For details, contact 646-2312 and 0915-5656100 (Doc Jovy).

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THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
UNDISCOVERED 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
INTO THE BLUE 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
TRANSPORTER 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
PERFECT CATCH 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE DESCENT 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
② INTO THE BLUE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
③ TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
④ THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
⑤ A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:05 R3 / 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
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Oct 5 Wed COCA COLA vs GINEBRA 4:40 pm
STA LUCIA vs ALASKA 7:25 pm
Oct 6 Thu ADMU vs Adu Wom 11 am UP vs DLSZ Jrs 1 pm
FINALS GAME 2: DLSU vs FEU Srs 3:30 pm

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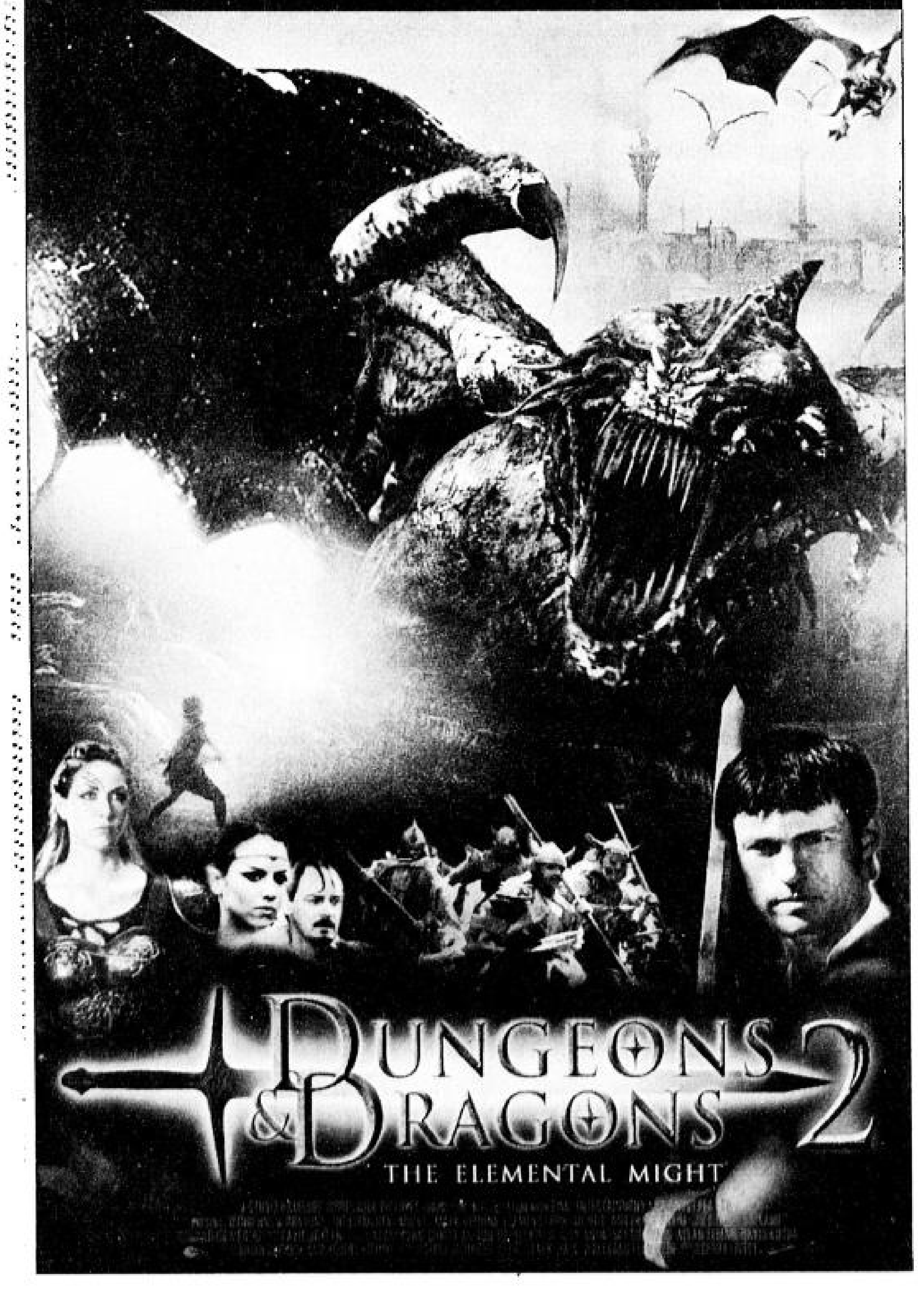

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2 INTO THE BLUE
3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 THE DESCENT
8 TRANSPORTER 2
9 THE PERFECT MAN
10 DARK WATER

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE DESCENT
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 WILD SIDE
7 TRANSPORTER 2

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1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE DESCENT
3 THE PERFECT MAN
4 DARK WATER
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6 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
7 THE PERFECT CATCH
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

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2 THE DESCENT
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

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2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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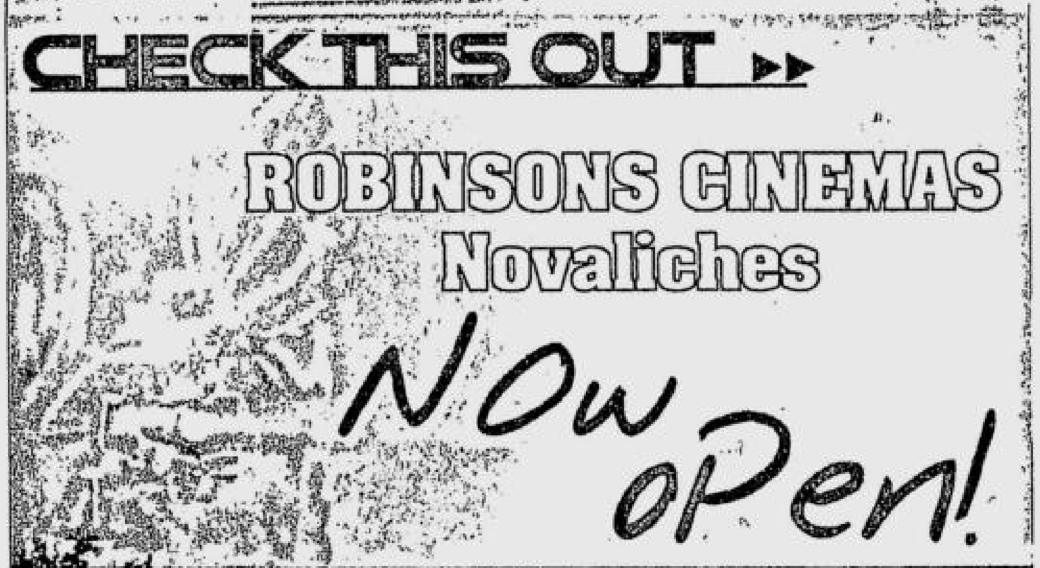
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 TRANSPORTER 2



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2 THE CROW 4
3 THE CAVE
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

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1 THE LONG WEEKEND
2 THE CROW 4
3 DARK WATER
4 THE CAVE

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1 THE CROW 4
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

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1 THE LONG WEEKEND
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 THE CAVE

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1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

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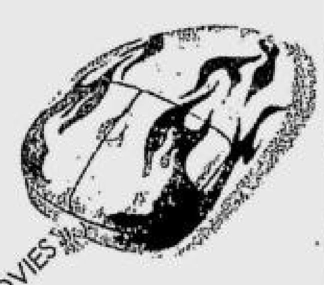

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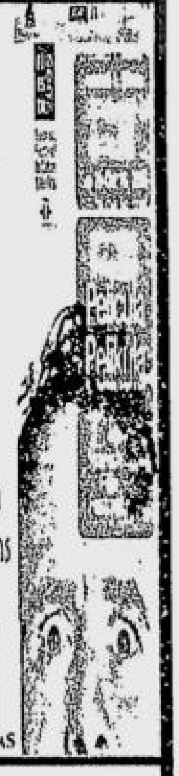

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NBC CAGING

Harbour five, Cavite start best-of-three North finals

RIDING HIGH ON ITS AMAZING RUN OF SUCcess in two separate playoff series, Bacchus/Harbour Centre faces another acid test today when it starts its best-of-three affair with Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite for the 2005 Panasonic-NBC's Northern Conference title at the Washington gym in Makati City.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar are the heavy favorites in their 6 p.m. meeting with coach Lawrence Chongson's Bacchus/Harbour cagers, who finished in the cellar in the classification round but defied the odds to upstage Boy Bawang-backed Parañaque Jets and last year's titlist Forward Taguig in the playoffs.

The Insurers, fresh from their conquest of the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup, pin their hopes on ex-pro Marvin Ortiguerra, Buboy Rodriguez, Marlon Basco, Jay-Ar Estrada, Arnold Booker, Mark Abadia, Christian Coronel, Dom Yabut and Melvin Mamaclay.

'Dangerous team'

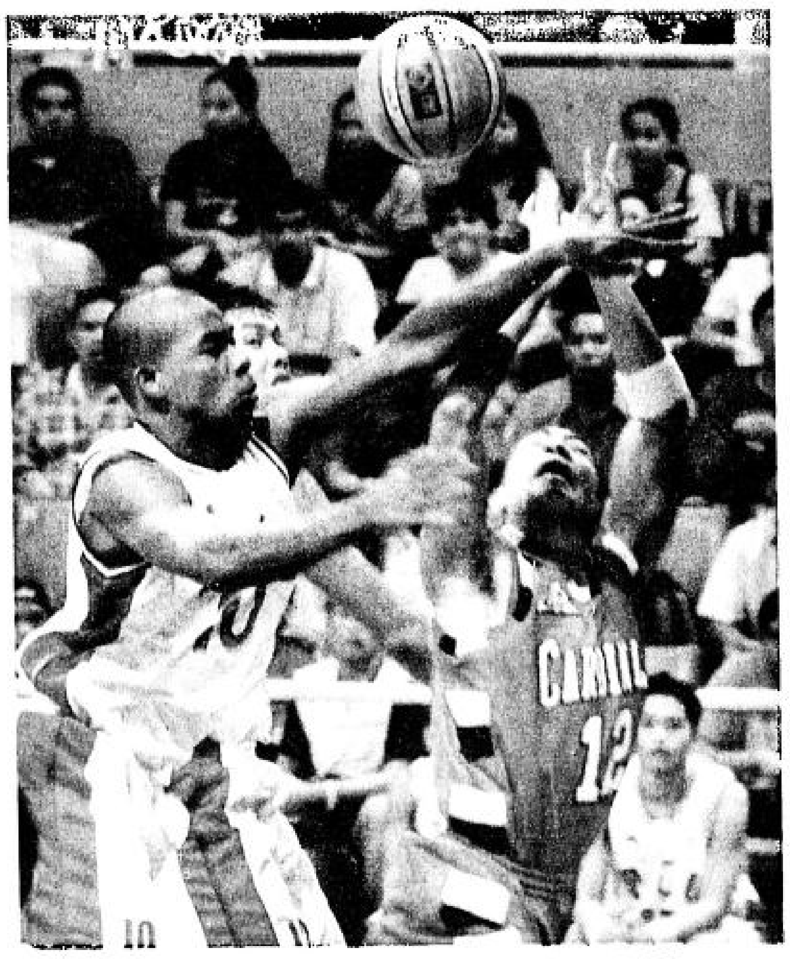
On the other hand, Bacchus/Harbour is banking on veteran slotman Allan Gamboa, Harold Sta. Cruz, Nani Epondulan and Fil-Am guard Francis Rauschmayer.

Backing them are former Letran star Ronjay Enrile and Arjun Cordero, former NCAA junior MVP.

"We may be the favorite, but Bacchus/Harbour is a dangerous team," noted Cavite coach Bong dela Cruz.

Chongson is optimistic. "We're peaking at the right time and we're ready for them (Cavite Insurers)," he said.

The tourney is supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcyles, Sirlitz, Hapee Tootpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.



DELA PEÑA (right) is another prime prospect for Toyota Otis-Letran.

Fil-Am slotman likely top pick

IN DIRE NEED OF A MOBILE BIG MAN, TOYota Otis-Letran is likely to make Filipino-American Joe Calvin Devance as the overall top pick when the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) holds its Rookie Draft today at the Penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange Center in Pasig City.

Devance, the 6-foot-7 center from Hawaii, provided a glimpse of what he can do during the Rookie Camp last Monday at the Reyes gym and Toyota Otis-Letran coach Louie Alas is quite impressed with his skills.

Having an oversupply of wingmen who can slice in the middle and shoot from the outside, Alas said Devance fits perfectly to the team's style, saying: "We need a scorer inside the paint. Devance is one of our options but there are so many good guys from the pool."

Fresh from steering the Letran Knights to the NCAA championship, Alas is also keen on getting Kelvin dela Peña, the very same player who helped Mapua stun the Knights—the only setback they suffered in the elims.

"Dela Peña and other Mapua players were impressive during the Rookie Camp, so *medyo hindi pa rin kami* sure whether I will pick Devance or a player from Mapua," said Alas. "I will still consult my staff about it."

Close to 120 aspirants—the biggest in years—have made themselves available for the kick tournament of the 24th season which is slated to begin on Oct. 29.

The drafting starts at 2 p.m.

Aside from Devance and dela Pena, the NCAA Rookie of the Year winner, other first round prospects are University of the East's Marcy Arellano, Luis Palaganas, Earn Saquindel, Cebu's Mark Jonas Ababon and Lloyd Sugian, University of Santo Tomas' Jojo Duncil, Mapua's Tristan Veranga and Hermes Sumalinog and an array of Fil-foreign players.

Pastor makes presence felt with 2 wins at BRC

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—ENZO PASTOR became the first double winner in the 2005 Philippine National Touring Car Championships, ruling the action-packed third round before another big weekend crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Pastor, already one of the country's finest competition drivers at 23, outduelled veterans Jody Coseteng, Kookie Ramirez, Philip Alvendia and Carlos Anton in the 12-lap race organized by Race Fans Inc. and sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

Looking unstoppable in his brand-new gray Honda Civic, Pastor negotiated the tough 3.1 km racetrack in a fast time of 30 minutes and 07.350 seconds to capture top honors, ahead of second-round winner Coseteng (30:18.574) and Ramirez (30:21.553).

Pastor's fastest lap time was 1:53.081, quicker than Coseteng's 1:54.146.

"I'm satisfied with my performance this weekend," said Pastor, who also dominated the kickoff round last Sept. 11.

Coseteng evened scores with a come-from-behind win in the fourth round later in the day. Ramirez finished second while Pastor wound up third.

The multi-awarded driver from SAMB-Erg trailed his younger race rival in the early part of the race but seized the lead for good when Pastor found himself sandwiched between Coseteng and Thirdy. Icasas as he made his move at a curve.

Race Fans Inc. president Richard Santos said the simmering rivalry between Pastor and Coseteng makes this year's battle for the "Driver of the Year" award "a lot more exciting than the previous ones."

The fifth and sixth rounds are slated Nov. 5-6, also at the BRC, before the series shifts to the Subic International Raceway for the next six rounds beginning Nov. 26-27.

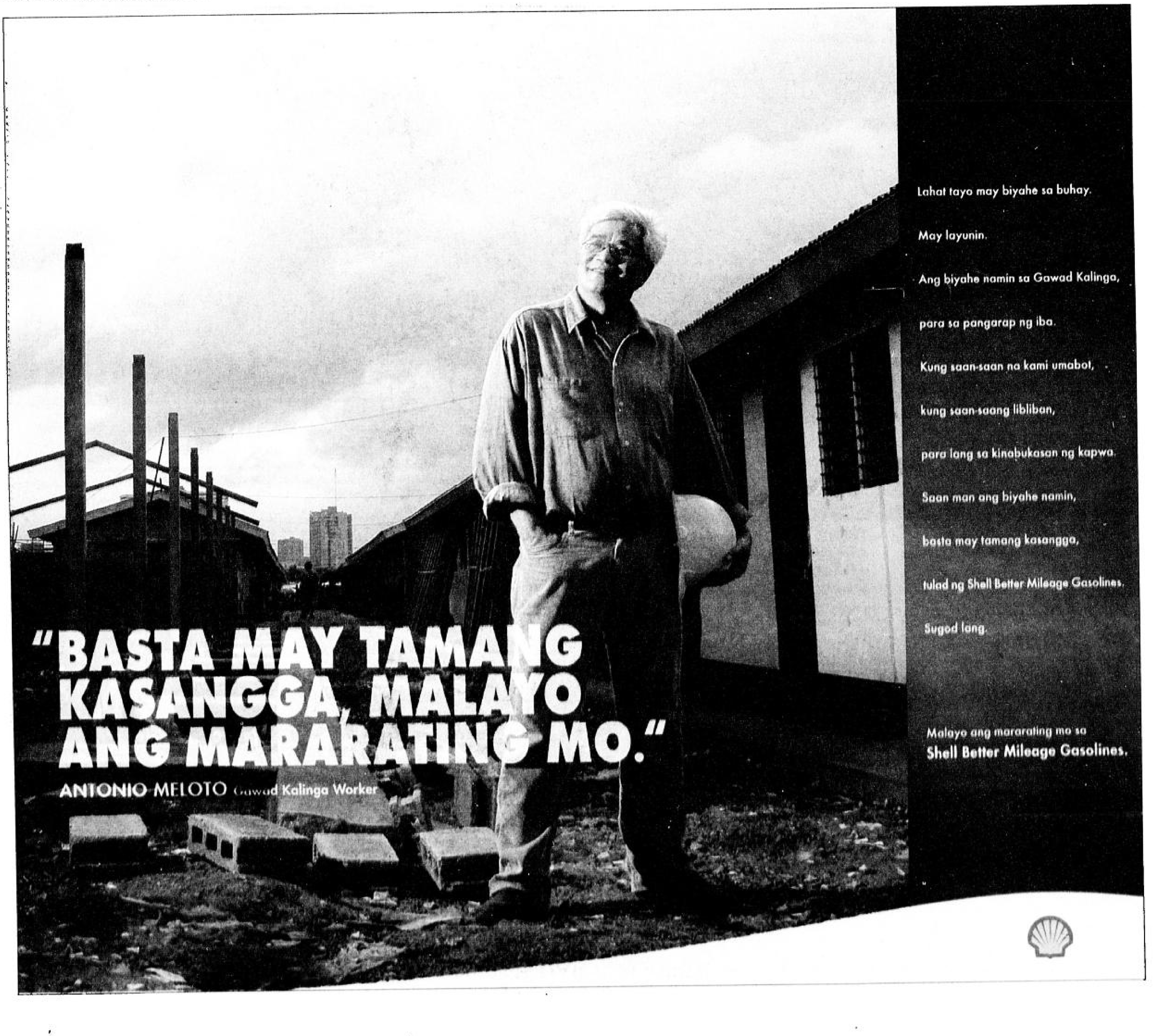
Abaniel, Martinez settle for bronzes in world tilt

MOSCOW, RUSSIA—THE PHILIPPINES' Gretchen Abaniel and Mitchel Martinez dropped their semifinal bouts Monday, settling for bronze medals in the 3rd World Women's Championships here.

Trailing by four points, Abaniel rallied in the third and final round, but fell short against North Korean Jong Ok, 22-20, in the 46 kg division.

Martinez, a two-time Asian champion, on the other hand, bowed to bull-strong Tatar Gulsum of Turkey, 32-26, in the 60 kg class.

Team Philippines, coached by Roel Velasco, ended up with two bronze medals, good for 15th place among 38 teams.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'SOP' AWARDS What was that about?

STORY ON PAGE A2-2

OPENING TODAY

Corpse Bride

Featuring the voices of Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Emily Watson
Directed by Tim Burton and Mike Johnson

Roger Ebert, in his Sept. 23 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, wrote: "Tim Burton's 'Corpse Bride' is not the macabre horror story the title suggests, but a sweet and visually lovely tale of love lost. In an era when most animated films look relentlessly bright and colorful, 'Corpse Bride' creates two palettes, and not the ones we expect. The world of the living is a drab and overcast place with much of the color drained from it, and the remaining grays and purples and greens so muted they seem apologetic. The world of the dead, on the other hand, is where you'd want to spend your vacation. It's livelier, cheerier and with brighter colors.... Victor is voiced by Johnny Depp, and reflects the current trend in animation by also looking like Johnny Depp. Once cartoons were voiced by anonymous drudges, but now big names do the work, and lend their images to the characters... As he does in all of his pictures, Burton fills the frame with small grace touches and droll details. He seems to have a natural affinity for the Gothic... He likes moonlight and dreary places, trees forming ominous shapes in the gloom, eyes peering uneasily into the incredible and love struggling to prevail in worlds of complex menace. All of that is a lot for an animated fantasy to convey, but 'Tim Burton's Corpse Bride' not only conveys it, but does it, yes, charmingly."

A History of Violence

Stars Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello, Ed Harris, William Hurt
Directed by David Cronenberg

Tom (Mortensen) runs a modest little diner, has bright, nervy son, Jack, a sweet pre-teen daughter and a wife, Edie (Bello). Everyone's lives change when some bad guys roll into town and make the serious mistake of trying to stick up the local diner—and mess with the womenfolk.

Peter Bradshaw, in his Sept. 30 review for

OPENING/ A2-2

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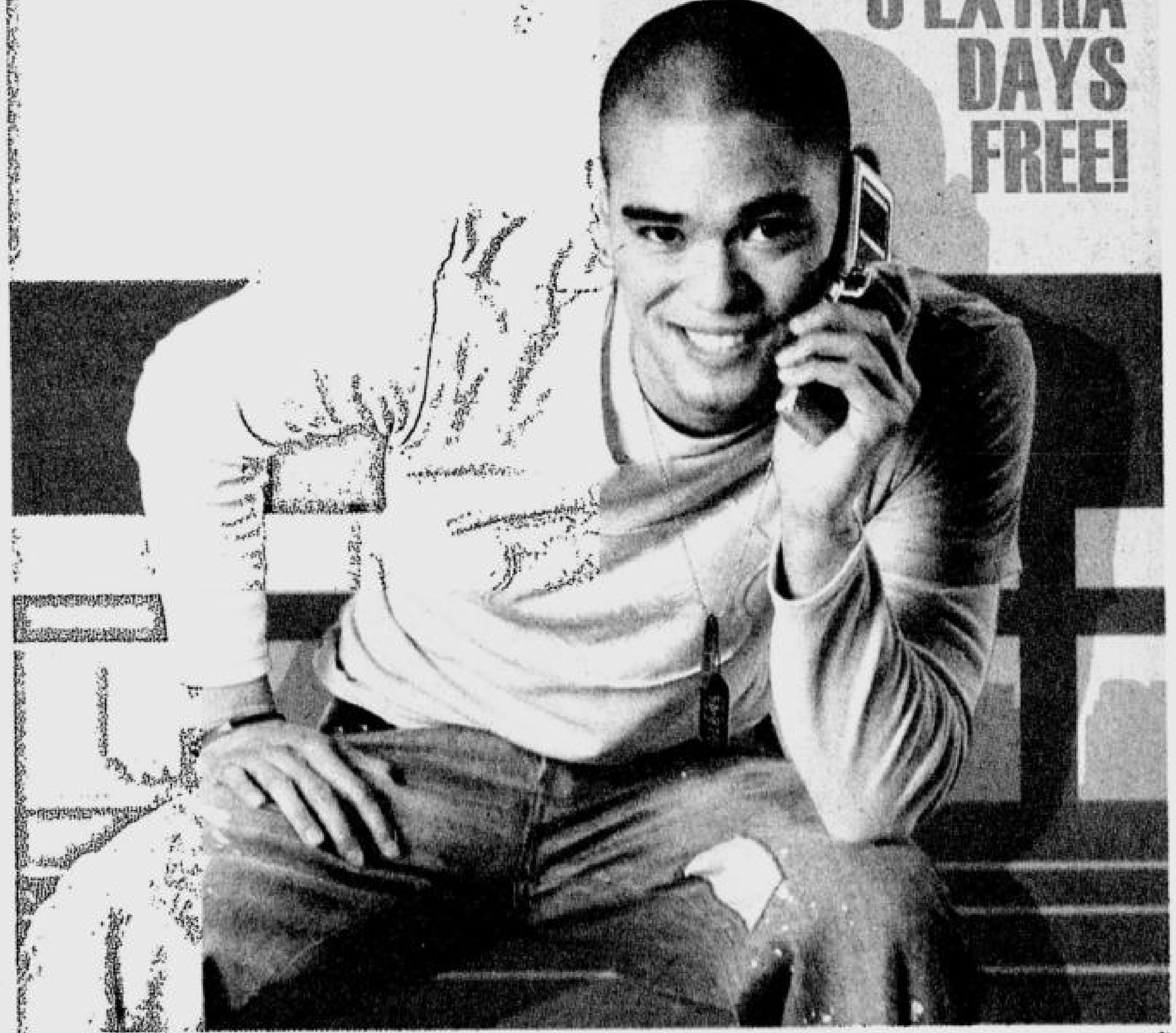

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OPENING TODAY

From page A2-1

The Guardian, wrote: "Cronenberg is not known for subtlety exactly, and this is hardly a subtle film, but there is something intriguing and understated in the way he contrives a syncopation of narrative and character."

Into the Blue

Stars Paul Walker, Jessica Alba, Scott Caan and Josh Brolin
Directed by John Stockwell

Jared (Walker), a frustrated treasure hunter in the Bahamas, lives in a boat. Samantha (Alba), his girlfriend, doesn't seem to care that he's always broke. Jared's shady lawyer brother (Caan), flies into town, and they all discover a potentially lucrative shipwreck that happens to rest a few hundred feet from a cocaine-filled plane.

Peter Hartlaub, Chronicle Pop Culture Critic, wrote in his Sept. 30 review: "The film achieves unprecedented success as a vehicle to showcase Jessica Alba's buttocks [and] turns out to be a halfway decent thriller, too."

Undiscovered

Stars Pell James, Steven Strait, Kip Pardue, Carrie Fisher, Ashlee Simpson
Directed by Meiert Avis

E! online wrote this review: "Remember 'Coyote Ugly'? No? It was about a female musician striving for fame who makes ends meet by doing slutty dances on bars. This movie is the even dumber boy-version of that... it doesn't waste too much time with unnecessary stuff like having an interesting story. Its job is to make everyone in it look like the most delicious batch of snack cakes ever. It succeeds at that at least."

The 40-Year-Old Virgin

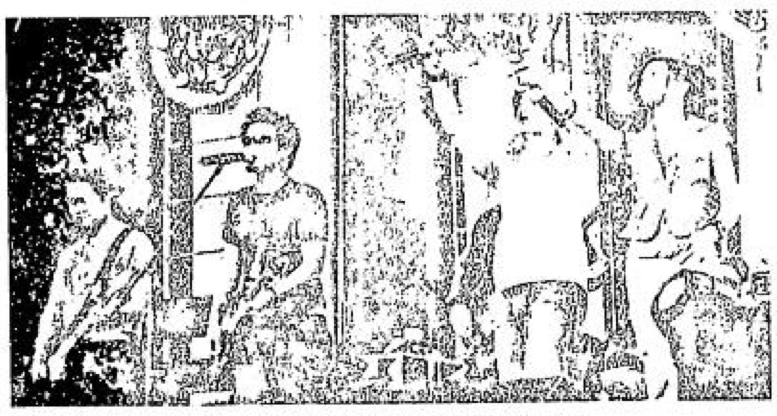
Stars Steve Carell, Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd
Directed by Judd Apatow

Andy (Carell) is a nice-enough looking guy who lives in a modest but nice-enough apartment and has a nice-enough job in an electronics store. A loner, he collects mint-condition action figures and has a store of video games. No, he's not gay. He's not a serial killer, either. Or a pervert. Nor does he have Mom's body stashed away, à la Norman Bates. He's just a regular guy who, after years of missed or fumbled opportunities, just stopped trying.

Eleanor Ringel Gillespie wrote this for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "For all its often hilarious misogynistic posturing and idiotic, Spike TV-style homophobia, this sweet romantic comedy could pass for a certified chick flick... With its excellent cast and let's-get-nutty finale featuring songs from "Hair," [it] is well worth your time."

Good choices, but what exa

J BROTHERS, Best New Age Novelty for "Pasaway"



CUESHE, Breakthrough Recording Artist for "Stay"

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Romy Homillada

GMA 7's second "SOP Music Awards" was held Sunday at the University Theater of UP Diliman, with an overflow crowd that went wild each time one of the band nominees performed their hits live on stage.

The show's producers went for extravagant opening numbers, but it was quite apparent that the hosts didn't get to practice—especially not the lyrics of difficult dance tunes like Michael Jackson's "Wanna Be Startin' Something" and Chaka Khan's "I Feel For You."

Still, it wasn't all that bad to hear a full horn section accompanying what looked like Gary V's concert band, the Powerplay, led by drummer Tats Faustino.

"SOP" program manager Hazel Abonito earlier explained that the nominees in the awards' eight categories were chosen based on radio stations' airplay lists and surveys of Internet chat rooms. The nominees should have also guested at least once on "SOP," with considerations on how well the show rated when the guest played.

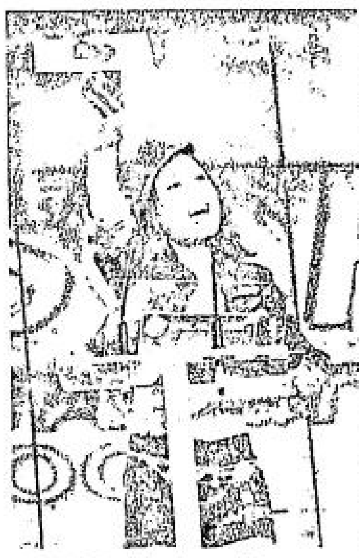
Winners were determined through text voting. From all indications, the text votes more or less reflected good choices—except in the case of Song of the Year, which went to Yasmien Kurdi's "I Know."

Surely this languorous pop number was popular—but probably only because it was adapted as the theme of "Sweet 18," a Korean soap-drama series on GMA. Note for note, it would've been blown to bits by the other nominees: Hale's "The Day You Said Goodnight"; Cueshe's "Stay" and Bamboo's "Hallelujah."

It might be prudent on the part of "SOP" management to publish a tally of the votes in all categories. Having said that, the rest of the winners rightfully deserved their exposures onscreen—if only for the prospect of selling more albums.

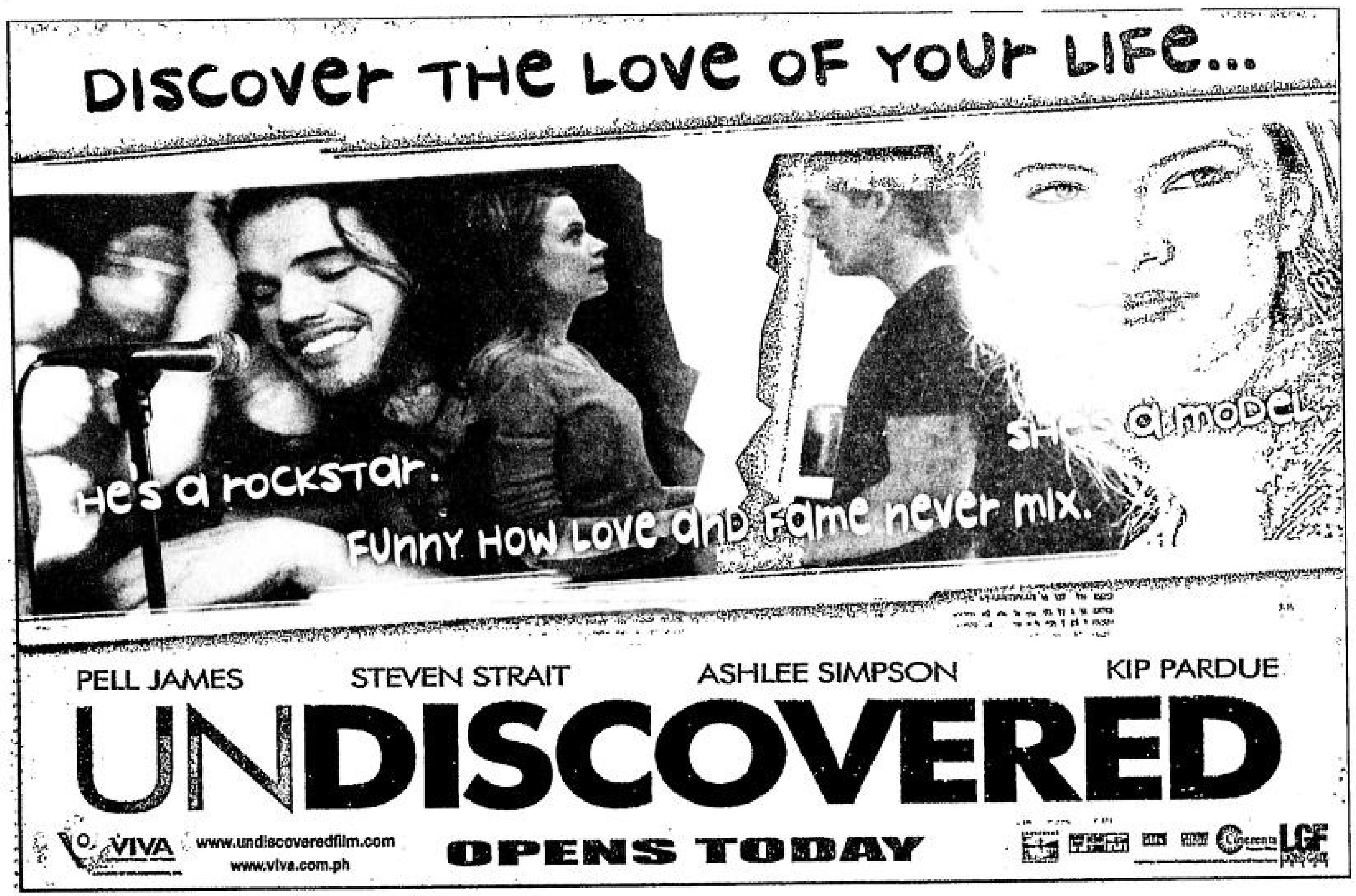
Still, the creative team behind some of the category titles could've pushed the winners

Cheers to 'SOP' for giving these raging bands the screen exposure they so well deserve



ARYANA, Maximum Dance Blast for "Bop Bop"

YASMIEN Kurdi, Song of the Year for "I Know."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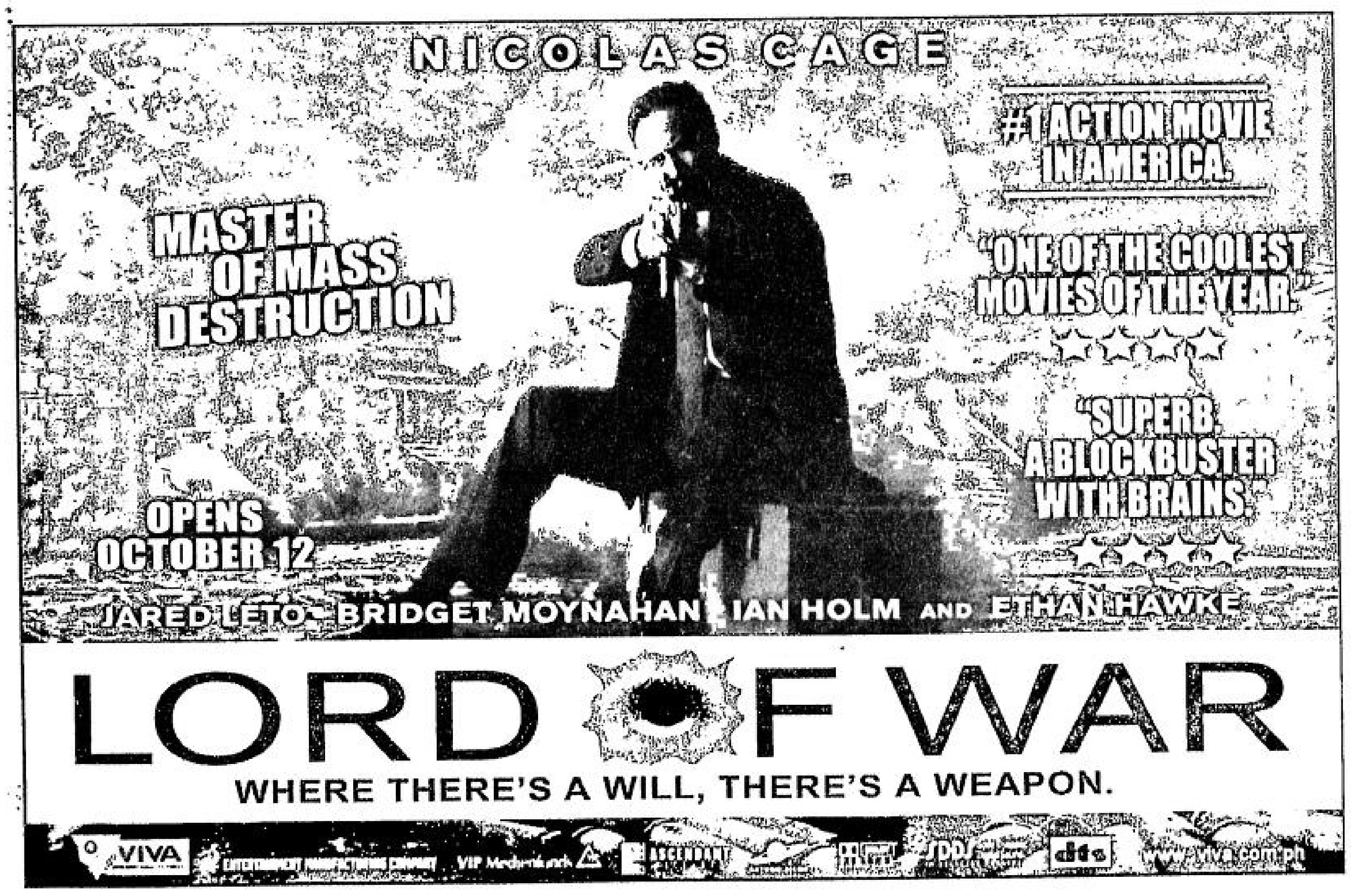
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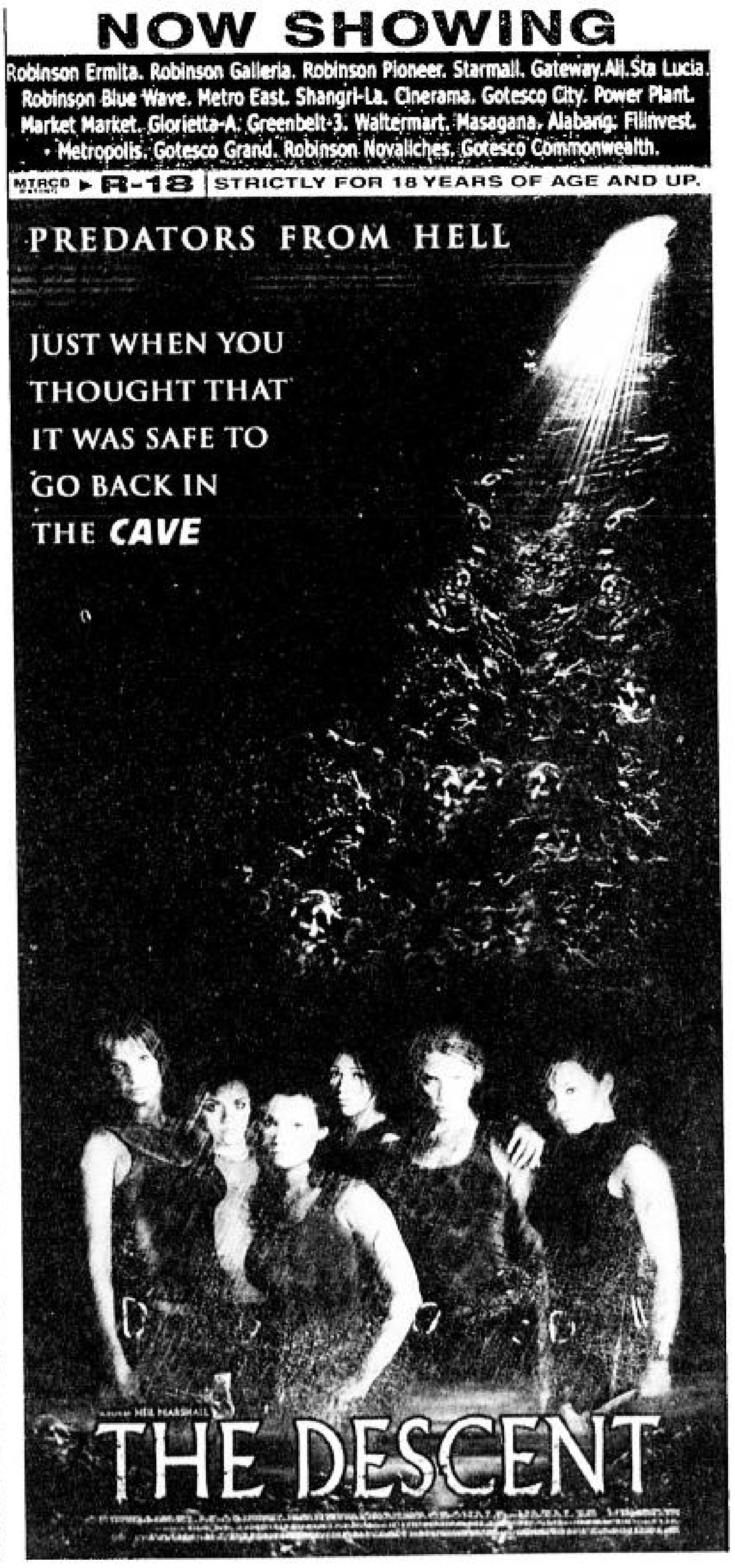
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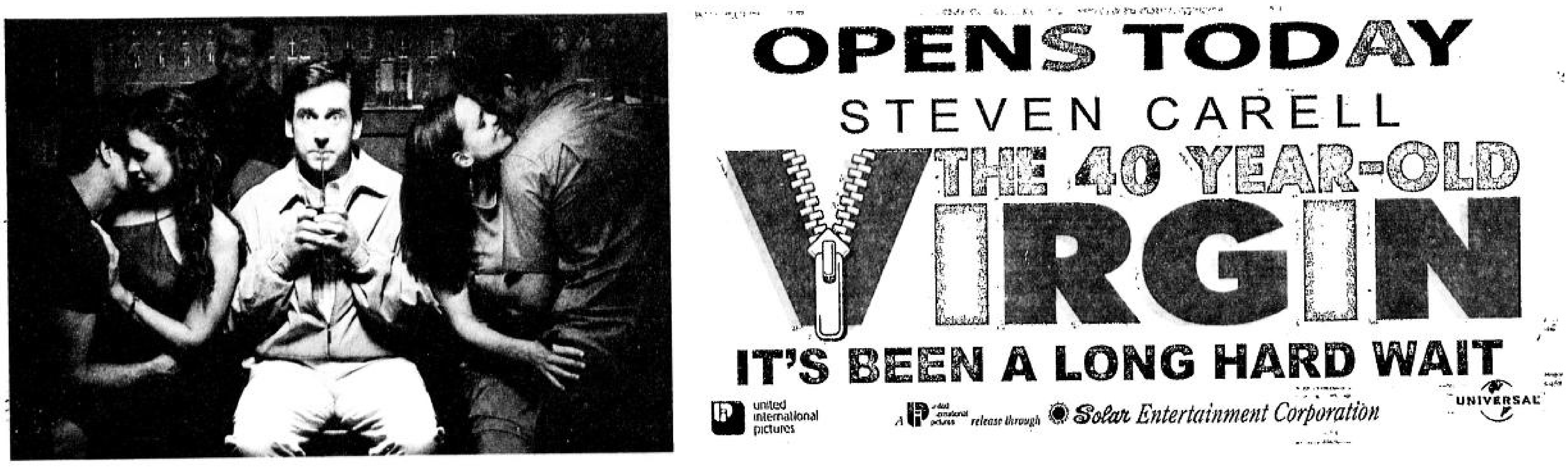
OPENS TODAY
STEVEN CARELL
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
IT'S BEEN A LONG HARD WAIT
united international pictures
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
UNIVERSAL

'SOP' AWARDS What was that about?

STORY ON PAGE A2-2

OPENING TODAY

Corpse Bride

Featuring the voices of Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Emily Watson
Directed by Tim Burton and Mike Johnson

Roger Ebert, in his Sept. 23 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, wrote: "Tim Burton's 'Corpse Bride' is not the macabre horror story the title suggests, but a sweet and visually lovely tale of love lost. In an era when most animated films look relentlessly bright and colorful, 'Corpse Bride' creates two palettes, and not the ones we expect. The world of the living is a drab and overcast place with much of the color drained from it, and the remaining grays and purples and greens so muted they seem apologetic. The world of the dead, on the other hand, is where you'd want to spend your vacation. It's livelier, cheerier and with brighter colors.... Victor is voiced by Johnny Depp, and reflects the current trend in animation by also looking like Johnny Depp. Once cartoons were voiced by anonymous drudges, but now big names do the work, and lend their images to the characters... As he does in all of his pictures, Burton fills the frame with small grace touches and droll details. He seems to have a natural affinity for the Gothic... He likes moonlight and dreary places, trees forming ominous shapes in the gloom, eyes peering uneasily into the incredible and love struggling to prevail in worlds of complex menace. All of that is a lot for an animated fantasy to convey, but 'Tim Burton's Corpse Bride' not only conveys it, but does it, yes, charmingly."

A History of Violence

Stars Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello, Ed Harris, William Hurt
Directed by David Cronenberg

Tom (Mortensen) runs a modest little diner, has bright, nervy son, Jack, a sweet pre-teen daughter and a wife, Edie (Bello). Everyone's lives change when some bad guys roll into town and make the serious mistake of trying to stick up the local diner—and mess with the womenfolk.

Peter Bradshaw, in his Sept. 30 review for

OPENING/ A2-2

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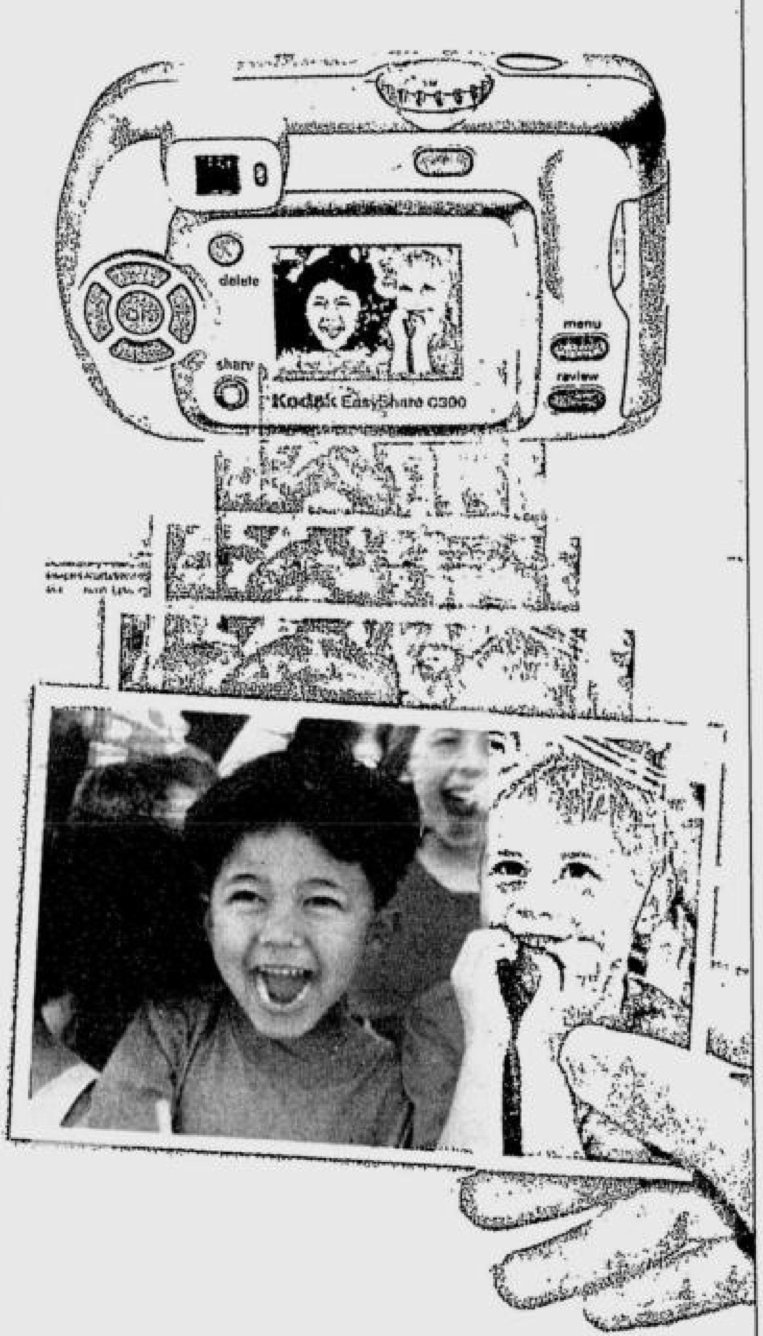

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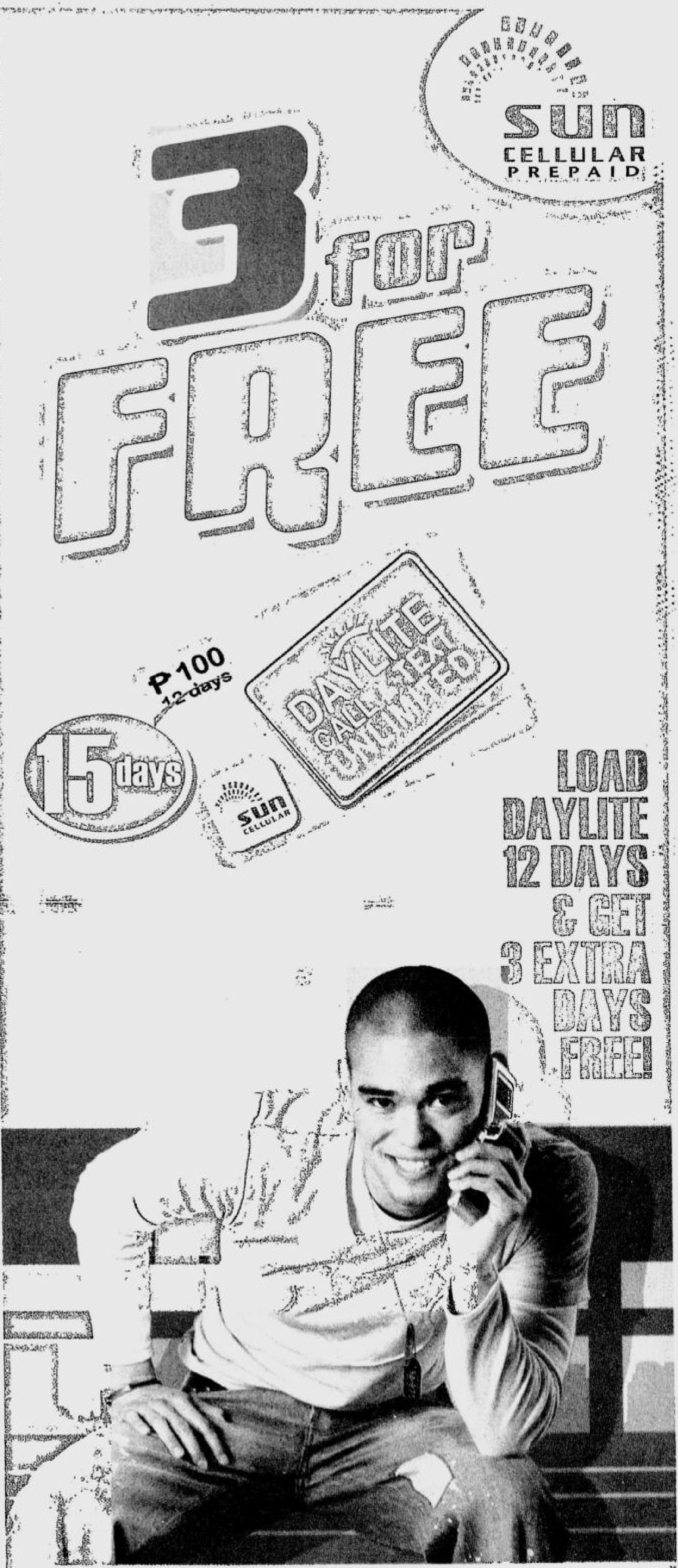
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OPENING TODAY

From page A2-1

The Guardian, wrote: "Cronenberg is not known for subtlety exactly, and this is hardly a subtle film, but there is something intriguing and understated in the way he contrives a syncopation of narrative and character."

Into the Blue

Stars Paul Walker, Jessica Alba, Scott Caan and Josh Brolin
Directed by John Stockwell

Jared (Walker), a frustrated treasure hunter in the Bahamas, lives in a boat. Samantha (Alba), his girlfriend, doesn't seem to care that he's always broke. Jared's shady lawyer brother (Caan), flies into town, and they all discover a potentially lucrative shipwreck that happens to rest a few hundred feet from a cocaine-filled plane.

Peter Hartlaub, Chronicle Pop Culture Critic, wrote in his Sept. 30 review: "The film achieves unprecedented success as a vehicle to showcase Jessica Alba's buttocks [and] turns out to be a halfway decent thriller, too."

Undiscovered

Stars Pell James, Steven Strait, Kip Pardue, Carrie Fisher, Ashlee Simpson
Directed by Meiert Avis

E! online wrote this review: "Remember 'Coyote Ugly'? No? It was about a female musician striving for fame who makes ends meet by doing slutty dances on bars. This movie is the even dumber boy-version of that... it doesn't waste too much time with unnecessary stuff like having an interesting story. Its job is to make everyone in it look like the most delicious batch of snack cakes ever. It succeeds at that at least."

The 40-Year-Old Virgin

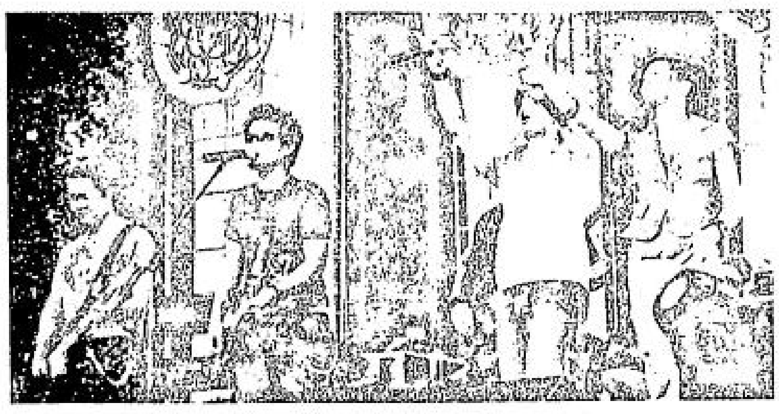
Stars Steve Carell, Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd
Directed by Judd Apatow

Andy (Carell) is a nice-enough looking guy who lives in a modest but nice-enough apartment and has a nice-enough job in an electronics store. A loner, he collects mint-condition action figures and has a store of video games. No, he's not gay. He's not a serial killer, either. Or a pervert. Nor does he have Mom's body stashed away, à la Norman Bates. He's just a regular guy who, after years of missed or fumbled opportunities, just stopped trying.

Eleanor Ringel Gillespie wrote this for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "For all its often hilarious misogynistic posturing and idiotic, Spike TV-style homophobia, this sweet romantic comedy could pass for a certified chick flick... With its excellent cast and let's-get-nutty finale featuring songs from "Hair," [it] is well worth your time."

Good choices, but what exac

J BROTHERS, Best New Age Novelty for "Pasaway"



CUESHE, Breakthrough Recording Artist for "Stay"

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Romy Homillada

GMA 7's second "SOP Music Awards" was held Sunday at the University Theater of UP Diliman, with an overflow crowd that went wild each time one of the band nominees performed their hits live on stage.

The show's producers went for extravagant opening numbers, but it was quite apparent that the hosts didn't get to practice—especially not the lyrics of difficult dance tunes like Michael Jackson's "Wanna Be Startin' Something" and Chaka Khan's "I Feel For You."

Still, it wasn't all that bad to hear a full horn section accompanying what looked like Gary V's concert band, the Powerplay, led by drummer Tats Faustino.

"SOP" program manager Hazel Abonito earlier explained that the nominees in the awards' eight categories were chosen based on radio stations' airplay lists and surveys of Internet chat rooms. The nominees should have also guested at least once on "SOP," with considerations on how well the show rated when the guest played.

Winners were determined through text voting. From all indications, the text votes more or less reflected good choices—except in the case of Song of the Year, which went to Yasmien Kurdi's "I Know."

Surely this languorous pop number was popular—but probably only because it was adapted as the theme of "Sweet 18," a Korean soap-drama series on GMA. Note for note, it would've been blown to bits by the other nominees: Hale's "The Day You Said Goodnight"; Cueshe's "Stay" and Bamboo's "Hallelujah."

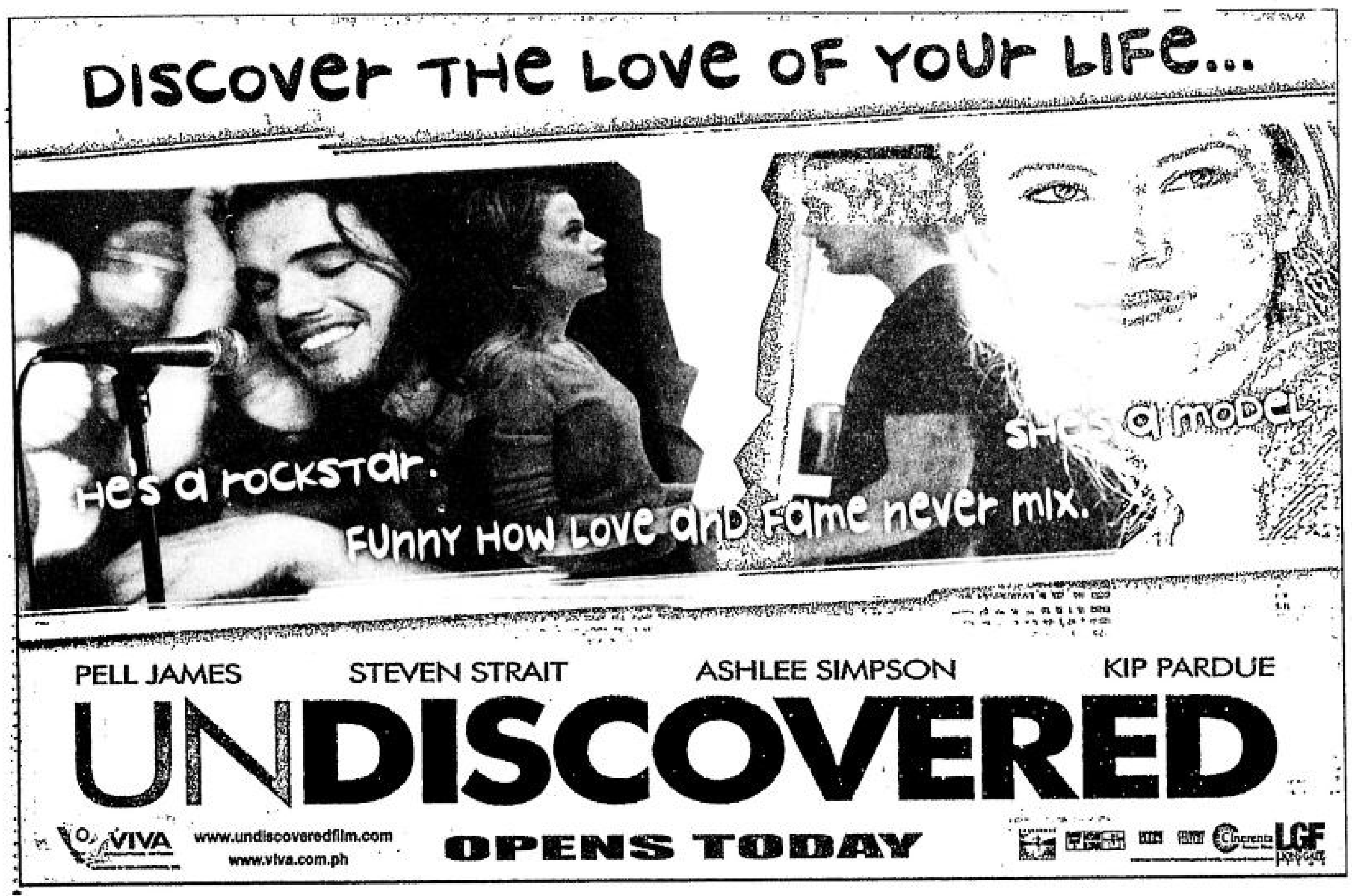
It might be prudent on the part of "SOP" management to publish a tally of the votes in all categories. Having said that, the rest of the winners rightfully deserved their exposures onscreen—if only for the prospect of selling more albums.

Still, the creative team behind some of the category titles could've pushed the winners

> Cheers to 'SOP' for giving these raging bands the screen exposure they so well deserve

ARYANA, Maximum Dance Blast for "Bop Bop"

YASMIEN Kurdi, Song of the Year for "I Know."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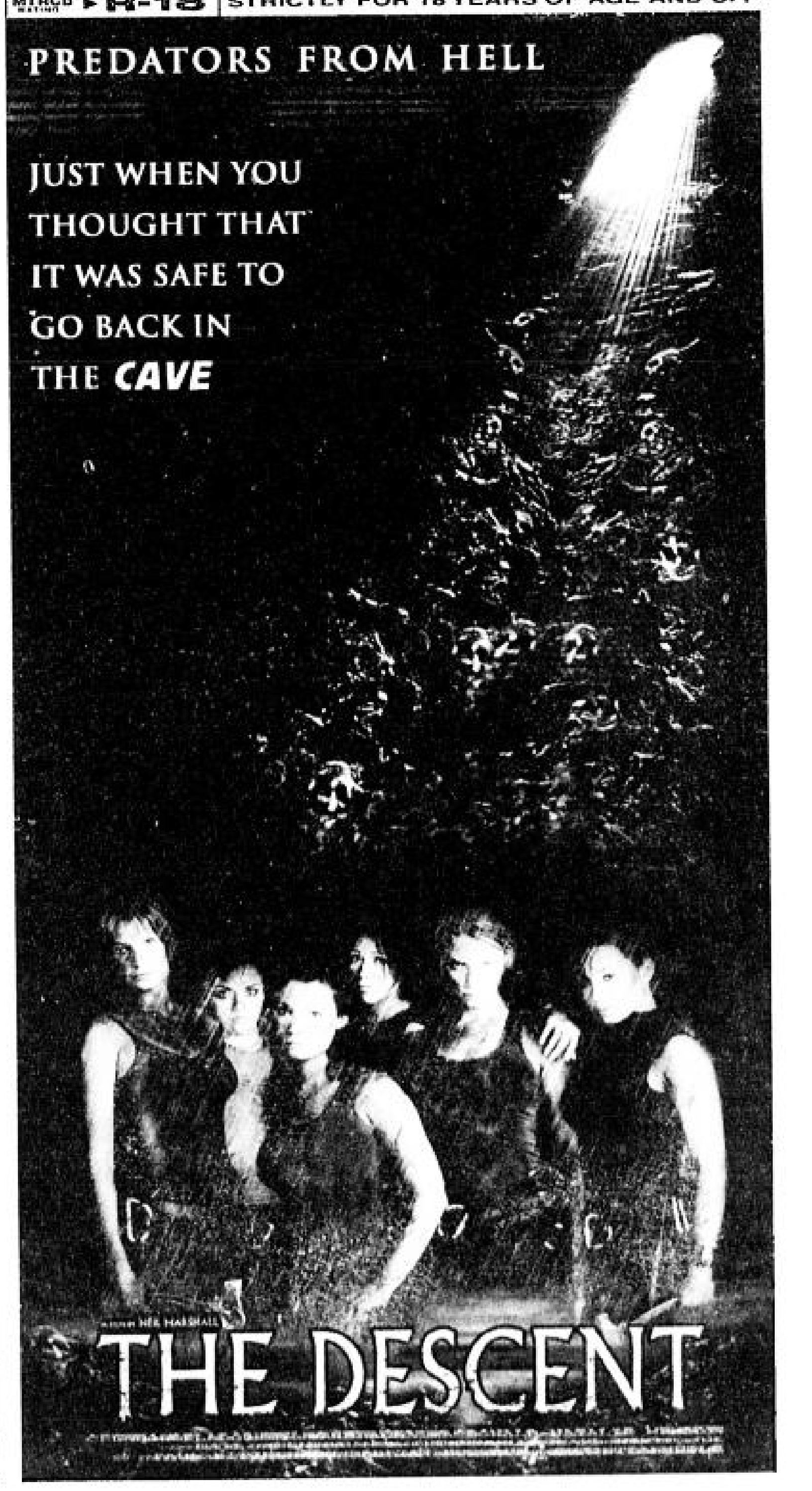
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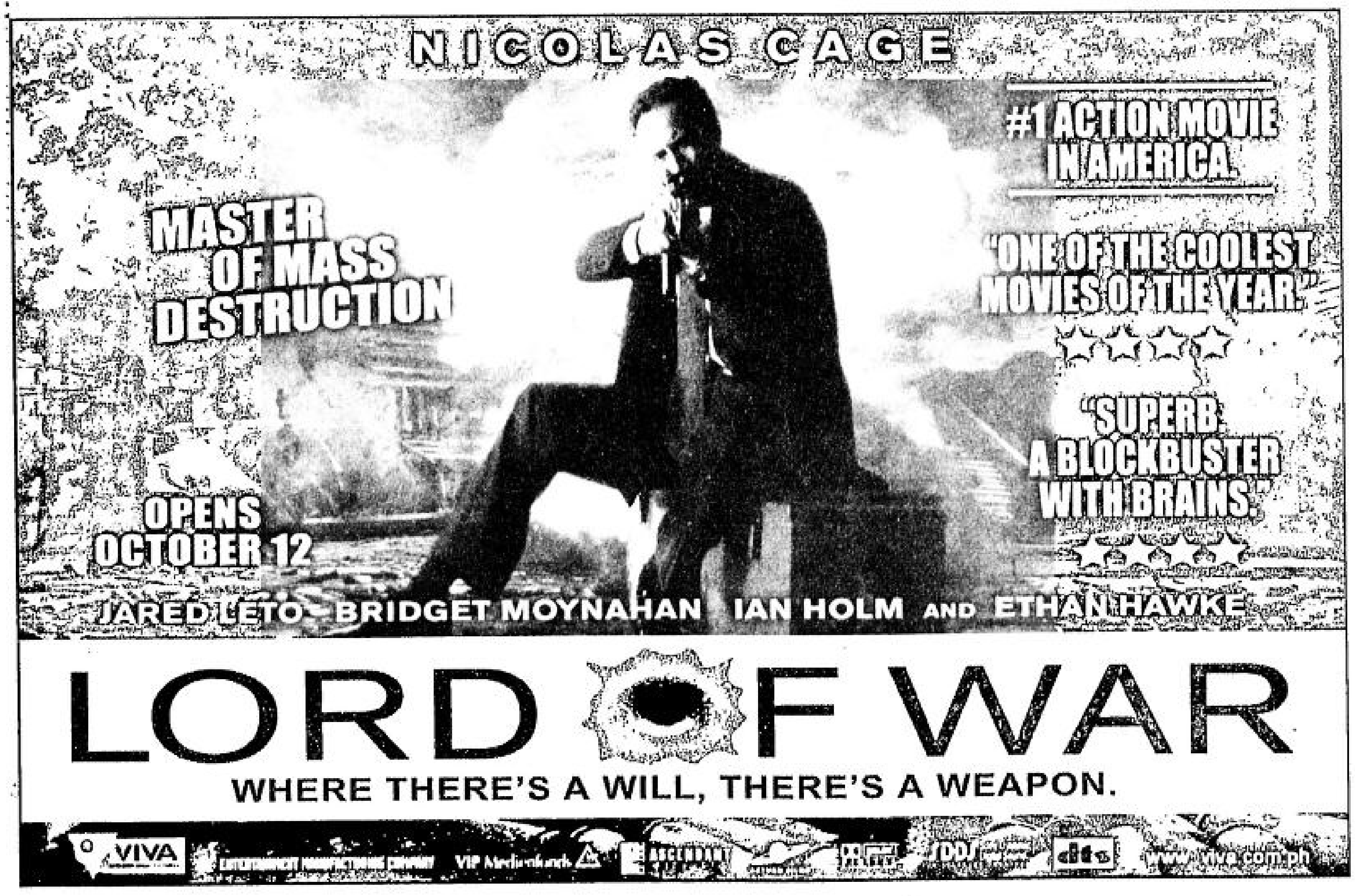
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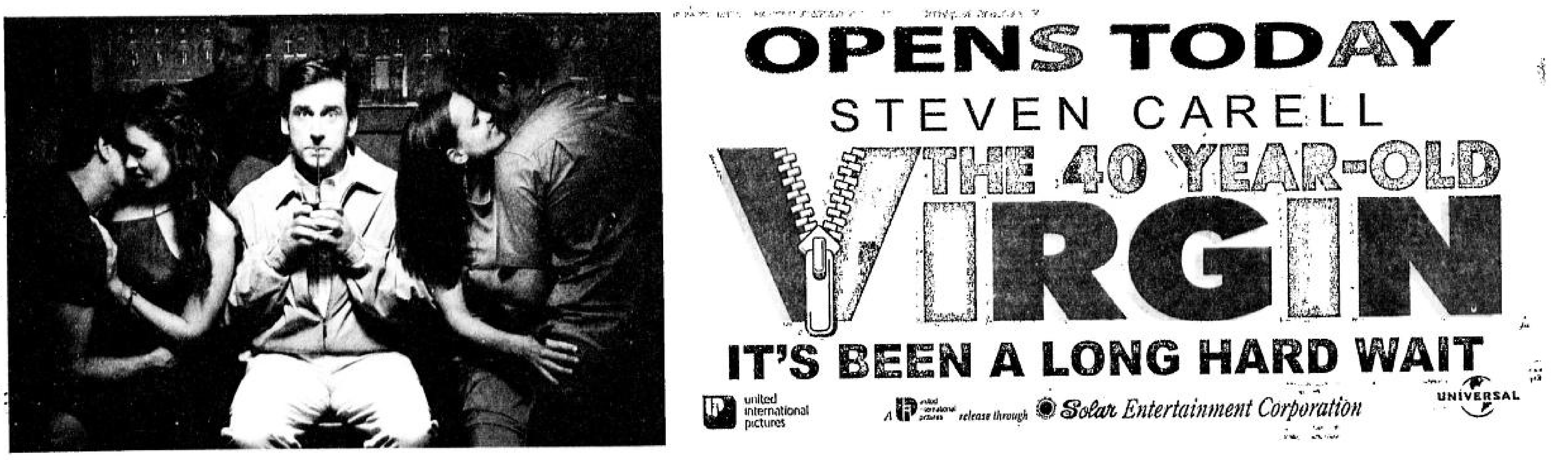
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THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
IT'S BEEN A LONG HARD WAIT
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ctly is 'New Age Novelty'?

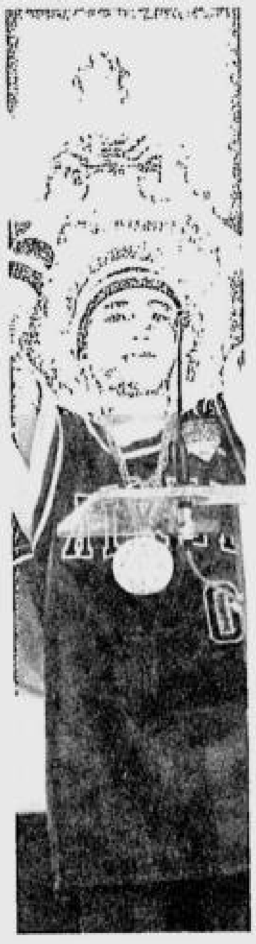
stumbling as they received their glass plaques and heavyweight hip hop necklaces called "SOP Bling-Blings." How else to explain such an absurd-sounding category as "New Age Novelty"—which somebody from the show's PR staff defined as "new age, *parang* today's age as in now…" Duh.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines New Age as "a cultural movement popular in the 1980s, characterized by a concern with spiritual consciousness and variously combining belief in reincarnation and astrology with such practices as meditation, vegetarianism and holistic medicine."

What's more unsettling is that New Age as a popular music form is characterized by simple repetitive melodies intended to induce a serene mood. How can one reconcile it with a street humor-inflected genre like "novelty"?

Nevertheless, congratulations to "SOP" for acknowledging the likes of a raging band like Bamboo, and including nominees like Brownman Revival that the crowd warmly received.

BROWN Man Revival was cheered by the crowd, too



AIKEE, Standout Rap Performance for "Kahit Bata Pa Ako"

BAMBOO, Strictly Alternative for "Hallelujah"

The "SOP Music Awards" 2005 winners:

Breakthrough Recording Artist: Cueshe for "Stay"

Standout Rap Performance: "Kahit Bata Pa Ako" by Aikee

Best New Age Novelty: "Pasaway" by J Brothers

Maximum Dance Blast: "Bop Bop" by Aryana

Revive 05: "Tell Me Where It Hurts" by MYMP

Strictly Alternative: "Hallelujah" by Bamboo

Artist of the Year (Viewer's Choice): MYMP

Song of the Year: "I Know" by Yasmien Kurdi

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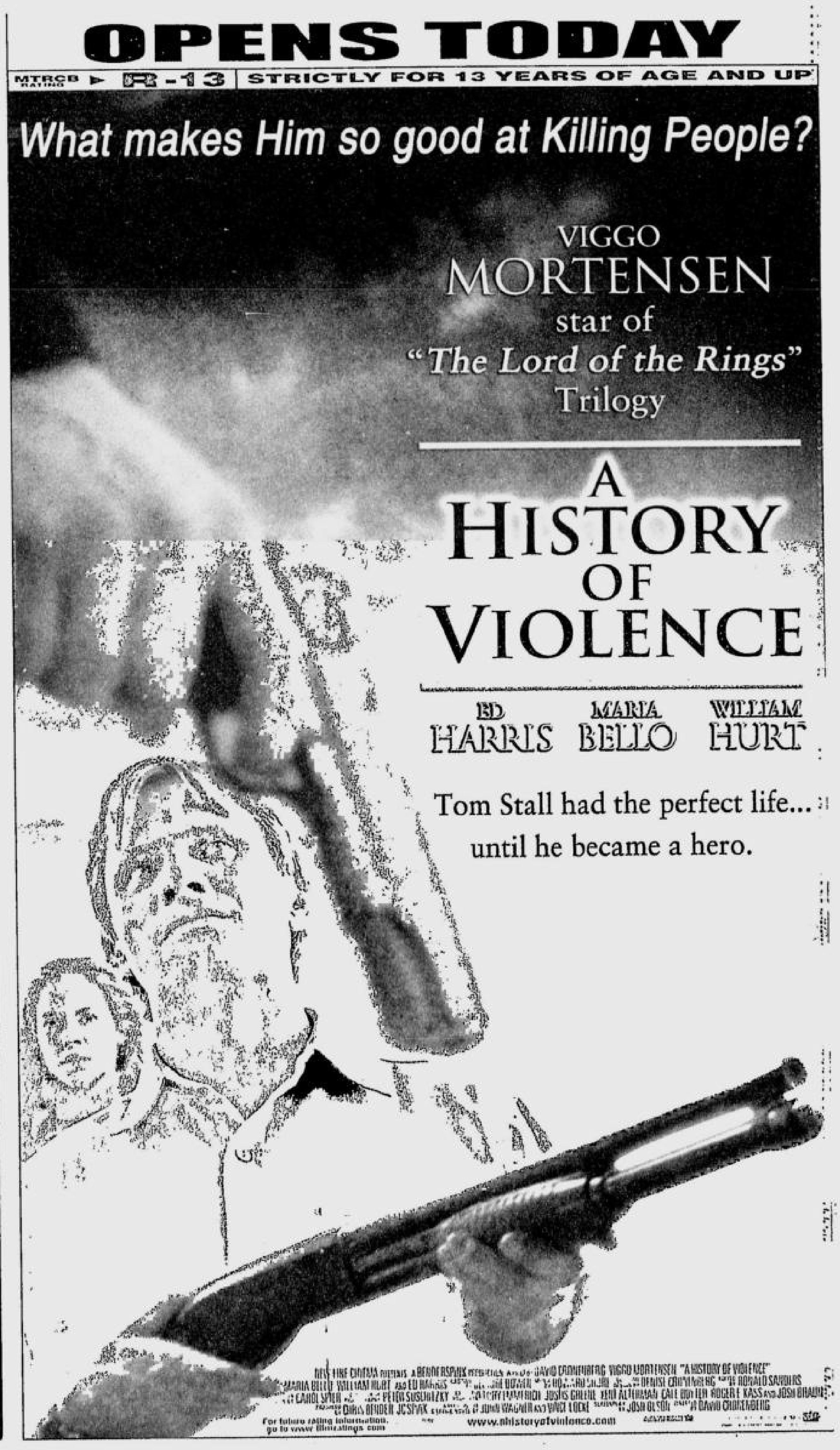

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Monica on the road

A standout in the ABC 5 reality show "Hollywood Dream," Monica Llamas is now hosting Studio 23's "The Travel Show." As the title suggests, Monica will be hitting the road.

"It's not expensive to travel around the country," she says. "You just have to find the lowest room rates, discounted fares and cheapest meals. Bargain-hunting is part of the fun."

The job indulges the adventurer in her. She has swam with the whale sharks of Donsol and has gone trekking and spelunking in Benguet.

Her travel tip: "Pack essentials—a cap, sunglasses and jacket—in a light but sturdy bag."

Plus, get into a good pair of shoes, she insists, "if you're expecting tough terrain."

FROM left, LJ Reyes, Ala Paredes and Monica Llamas

She swears by Columbia Sportswear. "I love Columbia's Vermillion shoes."

LJ on the catwalk

Like most teenagers, "Starstruck 2" Survivor LJ Reyes is a bona fide fashionista.

"I dress according to my moods," she says. "There are days when I want to look dainty and girly. But there are also times I go for comfort."

Her "uniform" is simplicity defined: tees or tank tops with jeans.

Thus, she says she didn't think twice when Bum Equipment asked her to join the clothing company's list of celeb endorsers.

"The brand suits my personality," she points out.

On top of her TV work (on GMA 7's "Sugo" and "Love to Love"), LJ is taking up Communication Arts and Finance at De La Salle University.

Ala on a high note

Ala Paredes, child of famous dad Jim Paredes of Apo Hiking Society, has come into her own.

She is into music and fronts the band Hiraya. She hosts ABC 5's "Islamusik," where she gets to interview fellow musicians. She's an advice columnist for Pink, a youth magazine. And she endorses a brand of yogurt.

The stunning busybody also tried modeling and veejaying before finding her comfort zone. Now she want's to be a painter. "I want to hold my own exhibit someday."

In college, she shifted from painting to digital art. "That was when art became less about me and more about what I could create."

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Goodbye, Juancho

JUANCHO GUTIERREZ, HEARTthrob of the 1960s, succumbed to diabetes complications last Sunday after years of illness. He was 73. In his prime, Gutierrez starred in many movies for his home studio, Sampaguita—"Mga Anak ng Diyos," "Historia de un Amor," "Lydia" and "Wedding Bells." The last one was with Gloria Romero, whom he married in 1960. They separated 12 years later, when their only child Maritess was nine. In 2000, they reconciled after a heart attack rendered him bedridden. "My daughter told me: 'Ma, let's bring him home.' It wasn't hard for me to say yes," Romero told INQUIRER Entertainment in 2003. The wake is at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

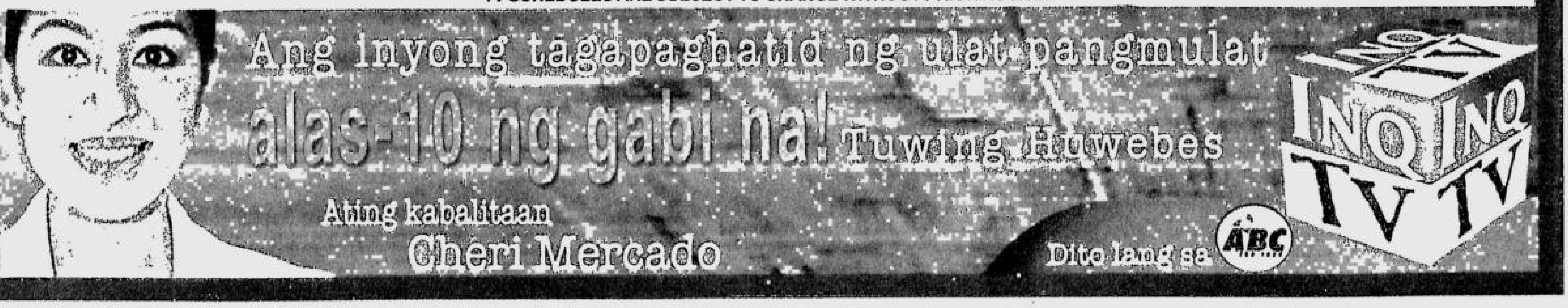
Wednesday October 5, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		Legacy Of Hero		Navy Medicine At War	Global Family Series	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	Pop Up	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports													Sports Desk					Sports Desk	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				Inside the PGA	WGC American Preview	EA Sports 500 Highlights		US OPEN 2005 Sharapova vs. Clijsters				Slipstream		Nopi Tunervision	BD Russia	Ultimate Fighting Championship			
Cinemax				Fool For Love			Ihaka: Blunt Instrument (5:45 PM)				Dark Skies: The Awakening			Beverly Hills Cop			The Hitcher II: I've Been Waiting		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Agency II		The Runaway			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Failure Analysis		Wild Science		[illegible] And Runaway Brides		Cleopatra's Lost City		Hour China		Wild Science		Building Babies		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To More Extremes		Sea Hunters		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes: The Silk Route	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron/Romeo/ As Told By Ginger/Viewers Choice					1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	Hollywood Baby Boom		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias (Season III)		The Contender		Ultimate Guinness World Records		The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Commited	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Barfly (3:45 PM)				Bachelorman			Wolf				Hollywood Homicide				Caddyshack (10:55PM)	
Star Movies		Million Dollar Murder (3:15 PM)				Kung Phooey (4:50 PM)			Opening Night (6:25 PM)	Sneakers (6:55 PM)				Nature Unleashed: Earthquake			Love Actually (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Payaso		Ina, Kapatid, Anak				Ms. Kristina Moran			Persona	Anak (9:15 PM)				Sugatang Puso			
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factory C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
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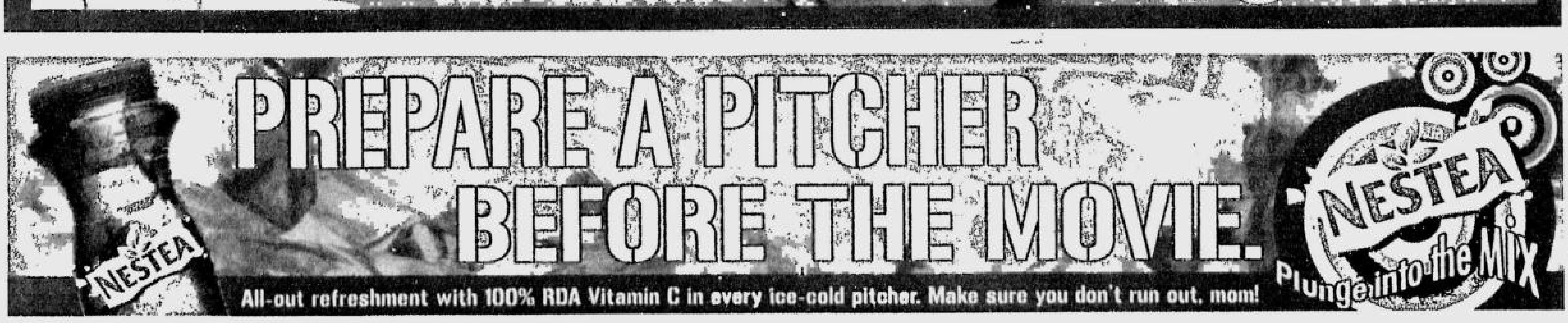
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005

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B1

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RP is 2nd worst in Asia in cable TV piracy

HK group says losses this year to top P5B

By Clarissa S. Batino and Ronnel W. Domingo

THIS YEAR, MORE THAN P5 BILLION (ROUGHLY $90 million) is estimated to be lost to piracy in the cable television industry in the Philippines, which now ranks second in Asia in terms of the incidence of theft in cable TV programming, according to a Hong Kong-based group.

The Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (Casbaa) yesterday said cable TV piracy in the Philippines was growing at an alarming rate and latest figures showed the situation was getting even worse.

Casbaa chief executive Simon T. Davis said yesterday in a teleconference with reporters that pirates steal away a total of $970 million in related losses yearly all over the Asia Pacific.

An industry group dedicated to the promotion of multi-channel television via cable, satellite, broadband and wireless video networks across there region, Casbaa groups some 110 Asia-based firms that service some 3 billion people.

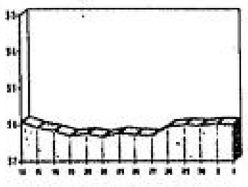
It initiated a series of raids of allegedly erring pay TV operators in the Philippines to send a signal to hundreds of unscrupulous cable TV operators to stop stealing programs.

As of June, the number of illegal cable subscribers was placed at 835,000, up 28 percent from 650,000 for the whole of 2004 while the number of legitimate subscribers shrunk by 15 percent to 750,000 in the first half from 880,000 for the entire 2004.

RP IS 2ND/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 4, 2005

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 4, 2005

GOLD:
466.80-467.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 4, 2005

Foreign investors deplore move on used vehicles

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE JOINT FOREIGN Chambers yesterday expressed disappointment with a Macalañang memorandum that allowed the importation and entry of used vehicles.

"We do not see the (need) for such a directive since this may encourage the renewed proliferation of import authorities and clearances," JFC said in a statement.

"This action displays an obvious inconsistency in government directions and policies being in conflict with the objective of the Motor Vehicle Development Program under Executive Order Nos. 156 and 418—both issued by the Office of the President," the group added.

Issued last April, EO 418 seeks to discourage importation by imposing an additional specific duty of P500,000 for each unit of imported used vehicle.

In a memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Sept. 8, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel for Legal Affairs Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez and Senior Deputy Assistant Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Joe Nathan P. Tenefrancia informed the Chief Executive about the order.

Gutierrez and Tenefrancia said Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita had directed the departments of finance and of trade and industy; the Bureau of Customs, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Au-

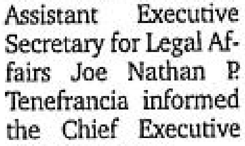
FOREIGN/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gov't seen exceeding expenditure ceiling in Sept. /B5

Doris' day /B3

Nissan to make 2 models in RP /B9



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Performance evaluation system for LGUs pushed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES MUST SET UP A PERFORMANCE evaluation system for local government units to reward better performing LGUs and encourage them to strengthen their fiscal administration, a joint Asian Development Bank-World Bank study said.

The study titled "Decentralization in the Philippines: Strengthening Local Government Financing and Resource Management in the Short Term" said effective decentralization of services through LGUs was key to responding to public needs and delivering services, such as health and infrastructure.

But the ADB-WB study added that improving LGU performance across the board would require administrative action in two key areas: Enhancing their capacity to raise their own revenues and access other resources and, strengthening key resource management systems and procedures .

More than a decade after the 1991 Local Government Code was enacted, the joint study said public surveys showed mixed assessment of local government performance.

It noted that a growing number of well-performing local governments emerged, but local investments in infrastructure and social services were constrained.

"Some well-performing LGUs can be considered islands of good governance which can inspire other LGUs to improve their effectiveness. The creation of an effective performance system would make it easier for the public to evaluate LGU performance results," said Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director.

"The national government can provide financial incentives and technical assistance to LGUs to improve their performance," he said.

Von Amsberg said improved local service delivery can in turn create a virtuous cycle—citizens receive services they value and thus gain trust in public institutions and are more willing to pay taxes that further improve services.

ADB director general for Southeast Asia operations Shamshad Akhtar said the bank was now coordinating closely with LGU stakeholders on several initiatives such as an ongoing technical assistance for enhancing capacity in budgeting, financing and expenditure activities.

Akhtar said the ADB would assist the government in preparing better provincial poverty maps to allow more targeted support to the poor.

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story?

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INQUIRER

RP is 2nd . . .

From page B1

Simon Twiston Davies, chief executive officer of Casbaa, said that industry losses due to piracy in the Philippines were placed at $70 million (roughly P3.92 billion) in 2004.

Of that, $38 million (P2.13 billion) were foregone Philippine government revenues in terms of taxes, import duties and licensing fees.

"The numbers in the Philippines show that the legitimate industry is going backward. This is cable TV industry in retreat," said John Medeiros, vice president of Casbaa.

He said piracy was also a big problem in countries like Thailand and Vietnam. But it was only in the Philippines where the number of pirates had been growing while that of legitimate subscribers was shrinking.

With the 28-percent increase in the number of subscribers who accessed pirated pay-TV, the extent of the losses was believed to have grown by at least as much, according to Casbaa officials.

The losses accrue most to the foreign program providers, especially the likes of popular channels such as CNN, AXN, Cartoon Network, Discovery Channel, Disney Channel, ESPN, STAR Sports, STAR Movies, STAR World, HBO, MTV and National Geographic Channel, which are the content often stolen.

Legitimate cable TV operators in the Philippines also suffer in terms of lost market and higher programming costs. Davies said that if piracy would be solved, the cost of legitimate operators would drop and the savings could be passed on to their subscribers.

Tony Selda, president of the Philippine Cable Television Association, said that cable operators stealing programs and selling subscription at a very low cost had been taking revenue away from the legitimate pay-TV providers.

"Signal theft and illegal connections are two of the biggest enemies of the cable TV industry now," he said.

The Hong Kong-based association initiated, with the help of the National Bureau of Investigation, the raid of three cable TV operators—one each in Cotabato City, Butuan City and Manila—two weeks ago.

Raided were Maguindanao Skycable and Z-Energy CATV Network in Mindanao and Telmarc Cable Corp., which operates in Taytay and in Laguna.

Davies warned that more raids would take place in the coming weeks and months.

"We intend to continue with our enforcement effort although our goal is not really to close down cable companies. What we're trying to do is to persuade them to go legitimate and buy the programs instead of stealing them," the Casbaa chief said.

Medeiros said that illegal operators who would come forward and own up to their mistakes now would not be charged.

The Casbaa officials urged Philippine authorities to strengthen their regulation and monitoring of these unscrupulous activities.

They said the government must empower the National Telecommunications Commission to run after erring pay-TV operators. There are groups questioning the authority of the NTC when it comes to intellectual property rights violations.

The NTC said it would crackdown on cable TV theft but first, it wanted program providers to register with the Commission before they can pursue cases of piracy and signal theft against Philippine operators.

"We are aware of the problem and are in fact in the process of creating an anti-piracy unit that will investigate these violations. But I want foreign program providers to register with us before they can ask for relief," NTC Chair Ronald Solis said in an interview.

Once the circular has been finalized, the NTC said it would require content providers to submit a list of their authorized cable operators, distributors and affiliates in the country to help the agency address complaints on theft and piracy.

Doris' day

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SHIPPING HEIRESS DORIS MAGSAYSAY HO is finally getting noticed by the business press more than the society section.

With a string of failed domestic relationships finally behind her, Ho, 53, has now focused her energies on conquering men in the boardroom, wrestling corporate control of the publicly listed Lorenzo Shipping Corp. from her own chair, sugar trader Julio Sy Sr.

Armed with a voting trust secured from fellow shareholder David Coyukiat of Pioneer Insurance, Ho's National Marine Corp. has launched a bid to acquire 51.3 percent of Lorenzo Shipping.

National Marine already controls 29 percent of Lorenzo, while Pioneer Insurance controls another 20 percent. In addition to its common shareholdings, National Marine holds an equivalent number of preferred redeemable shares of the containerized shipping company.

Ho's takeover plan comes in the wake of her National Marine's mid-year acquisition of the shareholdings of Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines, which, for unclear reasons, chose to sell out to then outsider Ho, rather than to Sy.

It is not immediately clear whether Sy would continue to hang on to his 10.22-percent shareholdings in Lorenzo Shipping or eventually sell out to the Ho group.

Despite having nearly thrice as many shares as Sy, Ho voted to keep Sy as chair in last June's shareholders' meeting, with Ho content on being elected as vice chair.

Sy, 71, who built a sugar trading empire from his Dumaguete base, may have to stay on for some time at Lorenzo Shipping.

He personally guaranteed a P100-million loan from Equitable PCI Bank that enabled Lorenzo to acquire one boat, and another P75-million loan from Metrobank that also enabled the company to buy another boat.

For these efforts, Sy obtained 1-percent guarantor fee from each bank.

The EPCIB loan matures April 2008; Metrobank's was supposed to have been fully paid by last month.

Of the seven-member Lorenzo board membership, two are held by Ho and her nominee, British expatriate Anthony Louis Marden. Two others are independent nominees, nominated by Sy himself, banker Deogracias Vistan and sugar heir Michael Escaler.

Money-go-round

- THE MANILA Golf Club is trying to follow the Manila Polo Club example with the proposal to outsource its canteen operations and thus save on labor, hospitalization and retirement expenses. As in Manila Polo, a number of Manila Golf Club members are grumbling about the spin-off plan.
- SAVE for some details, Jun Lagman of Alenaire and his Japanese principals, Daikin, are close to reaching an amicable settlement to end litigation over their soured joint venture.

Heard through the grapevine

THE HARDLY used McMicking penthouse in Urdaneta Apartments, which had been in the market for some time, has been sold to a top Ayala executive. The list price for the 500-square-meter unit was P25 million. *(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

Foreign

. . . From page B1

thority and the Land Transportation Office to allow the importation and entry of used motor vehicles with the Subic SEZ, subject only to the payment of required customs duties.

The officials added that this should be followed until the Supreme Court shall have decided on whether such importation was allowed under the Constitution.

The JFC had previously spoken against used vehicle importation, saying it hampered the growth of the local auto industry, deprived the government of substantial tax revenues, and threatened the jobs of thousands of skilled workers.

"This matter continues to remain unresolved, bringing to fore allegations of corruption and political influence, questions on policy consistency and lack of political will, while overall eroding investor confidence," JFC said.

Also, the group asked Malacañang to reiterate its policy against used-vehicle importation by modifying the Ermita directive; confirming the collection of the P500,000 specific duty, and stopping the proliferation of used-vehicle importation through other ports.

The JFC groups the American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean chambers of commerce and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

The group represents about 1,700 multinational companies that have substantial investments in the Philippines.

Last month, Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc., said the order was likely to arrest the already slow growth in overall automotive sales since the used vehicles ate up on their relatively small market.

"The local industry has not even recovered from the onslaught of the Asian financial crisis (in 1997 and 1998) and here we are again facing this problem," Lee said.

She said industry sales did not even reach 90,000 units in 2004, which was just barely over half the all-time high sales level of about 160,000 units in 1996.

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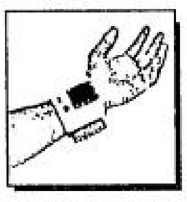

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Pinay physician assistant holds the hearts of Ohio

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

SHE HOLDS THE HEART OF OHIO. Sometimes as much as five times a day, Anna Kilayko Gursky literally holds the hearts of many Ohio patients in her hands for a bypass surgery. She is not a doctor and neither is she a nurse. Gursky is a physician's assistant (PA) who works under the supervision of the cardiothoracic surgeon at the Heart Hospital at Forum Health in Ohio.

The Heart Hospital at Forum Health is the first of its kind in the region that provides comprehensive cardiovascular treatments. At the heart of the institution is a team of dedicated and highly skilled practitioners who handle treatment, wellness and education. Gursky, born and raised in the Philippines, is proudly part of this team.

Working with doctors

As early as 6:30 in the morning, you would find Gursky in the operating room prepping a patient by attaching the femoral arterial line and Foley catheter. As assistant to the cardiothoracic surgeon, Gursky generally assists in surgery. She is part of a cardiac surgery team that includes the surgeon, perfusionists, anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, nurses and surgical technologists. With all these people in the operating room, one would think a PA would only crowd the room, but the presence of a PA in the operation is crucial.

PAs work closely with physicians. During the operation, Gursky harvests the greater saphenous vein using the endoscopic technique, a minimally invasive technique, while the surgeon takes care of the internal mammary artery. To put it bluntly, Gursky harvests veins from the patient's legs for the bypass. Gursky handles part of the surgery under the strict supervision of the cardiothoracic surgeon.

"PAs are health practitioners working under the supervision of a doctor. We are trained to perform at least 80 percent of what doctors can do and prescribe medications in most states," explains Gursky. Part of their responsibility includes conducting physical examinations, diagnosis and treating of illnesses, ordering and interpreting tests, counseling on preventive health care, assisting in surgery and in most states, writing prescriptions.

Medical background

Physician assistants are intensively trained and educated to compliment physician training. Like doctors and nurses, they need to be certified before they can practice their profession. The national certification examination for PAs was developed by the National Commission on Certification on PA's in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Like Gursky, PAs are required to log at least 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and apply for recertification every six years. Of course, before this happens, PAs must earn a degree accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

"Most PA programs last two years and require at least a bachelor's degree prior to applying and with the competitiveness of the profession, most programs are now offering a masters degree which require at least five year in school," notes Gursky. She did not have any medical background prior to applying but most applicants usually have experiences in the medical field either as nurses, paramedics or respiratory therapists.

Gursky received her Bachelor of Science degree in PA studies from the College of Staten Island. She completed her training at the Bayley Seton Hospital in New York doing clinical rounds in New York City Hospitals wherein she was exposed to internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, and geriatric medicine. Like medical students, PAs are educated on anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and physical diagnosis. Presently, there are over 130 accredited programs all over the country.

Growing demand

Physician assistants first started in the mid-'60s when there was a shortage of primary care physicians in the United States. The need for PAs have grown since then. In fact, the demand is so great that applicants are enticed to join the industry with a very attractive compensation. New PAs can expect at least $65,000 a year.

GURSKY

"The first few years in the profession is when the salary increases significantly as experience grows, and after about 5 to 10 years, it levels out," explains Gursky. She adds that some experienced PAs earn as much as $100,000 dollars.

The beauty of the profession is that PAs can move from one field of medicine to the next and get on-the-job training while gaining expertise on the field. According to Gursky, PAs can also expect a career in health administration, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment sales on top of clinical duties.

In the Philippines, the idea has yet to pick up. Physicians often rely on medical residents or fellows to assist them. In contrast, there is a great demand for PAs in the United States especially in the regions of the country in need of a health practitioner. "I share call with one other PA for now, until we hire more," attests Gursky. Because of the lack of PAs, she carries a pager with her wherever she goes and often gets called out for an emergency surgery even in the middle of the night.

Heart for the job

The irregular work hours for PAs could get physically exhausting. "You have to be very detail-oriented, meticulous and have the stamina to stand long hours and still maintain concentration," shares Gursky. She is often on her feet everyday, from 6:30 in the morning till five in the afternoon assisting in operations that lasts up to three hours each. At a maximum of five cases a day, she often extends her normal work hours. On lean days, she's on her desk writing progress reports or attending to patients by removing chest tubes, pacing wires or doing a history or physical exam.

In spite of the demands and the challenges of her profession, Gursky embraces her job wholeheartedly. After all, how many can say that he or she is responsible for the beating of someone's heart? "The thing I love most about my job is being in surgery," affirms Gursky.

Incidentally, Gursky often works with her own husband who is also a heart surgeon. She met her husband Andrei while on his general surgery residency in the same hospital. So often times, her own husband is also, her boss, a fact that she finds convenient and enjoyable. "I love operating with the surgeon, dealing with the heart and the camaraderie of the operating team while providing an exceptional care to the patient and later on seeing them in clinic always grateful to have a second chance in life."

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva-@pldtdsl.net)

A working mom's guide to the good life

WORKING MOM
Gina Abuyuan

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF Working Mom magazine, you will find many tips on handling money—saving it, earning more of it, and living like you have it. It's a subject that never goes out of style with working mothers (except perhaps, for a bunch of rich Chinese ladies I once underwent slimming acupuncture with—talk about a surreal experience! But that altogether is another story). It was even our subject last Saturday, whilst having a delightfully assembled dinner (both for the eyes and the palate!) with Patis Tesoro and her husband, Tito, at Kusina Salud in San Pablo, Laguna. We didn't have to say the words per se—"*tipid*," "sideline," "*magandang buhay*"—but it resonated all around us: in Patis' enchanting little corner, filled with plants and treasures found and thrown in together to create her own brand of eclectic elegance. It's a trademark that Patis-renowned for her creative and yet classic use of native fabric and embroidery—learned to perfect as she worked hard to recapture the good life of her youth.

Born into an old-rich family, Patis admits that she didn't like having known how to live well and not having access to it later in life.

"So that made me *masipag*," muses Patis.

As An Mercado Alcantara, founder of Working Mom magazine astutely pointed out, "and that made you recreate your own kind of good life."

Living well

We all have the access to this power—recreating the good life for ourselves, even while prices increase and our salaries remain as they are. Part of this empowerment lies in the change of attitudes we can adopt, just as Patis did when she acknowledged her resentment of not being able to afford the good life, but wanting it nevertheless.

I'm far from being born into old rich, but I've felt this resentment, too, many times. I used to have a driver and car at my disposal, cable TV, the freedom to spend P70 on a beer without thinking, and treating my daughter to Kids At Work on weekends. The key, I've learned, during the rude awakening of having to fend for my three children on a solo income, is a shift in perspective. Not using the air conditioner, asking for restructuring of my loans, seriously considering moving to Bagasbas, and home-schooling my kids do not make me a lesser mom—a lesser working mom. The world I've grown up in, and grown into, has given me so many preconceptions about how success and happiness is measured. Last weekend's visit to San Pablo, Laguna was another awakening for me, but this time, more of a gentle nudge, about how else I could live well, sans trappings, despite what people say.

Wealth whenever

Here are some of the tips you will find in October's issue, and a few of my own, about how to live the good life even in crisis:

1. Take care of your health. Drink your vitamins. Eat fruits. Drink plenty of water. Cut down (if you can't quit) smoking. Don't laugh at the ads—getting sick is costly, and even if you get to stay home, you don't get to hug your kids either.

2. Make your own coffee. I bought two kilos of Kalinga and Benguet coffee while in Baguio two months ago (P120 per kilo), and my mom gave me a bag of beans from Santis (at P80 per bag). Compared to P70 a cup at that ubiquitous coffee shop, well... that's a no-brainer.

3. Place a subscription to your favorite magazine, instead of buying it off the shelves. Ok, ok, so Working Mom has a 40-percent discount when you subscribe. Other magazines have huge discounts as well. (By the way, magazines are among the top 10 things working moms will not give up during a crisis—we list the other nine in our October issue).

4. If you can, put off buying those disposable trinkets that are flooding the market. Does your "money-tude" run along the lines of "*mura naman, eh, kaya ko binili?*" (By the way, your family's money-tudes and how they affect how your children spend their money is in the October issue too). Add up those hundreds of pesos you use to buy them, and you'll end up with an amount equal to half a year's supply of milk. Pearls are back. Classic black is back. Take out your timeless gold, silver, pearls and diamonds and leave the plastic danglers to women with real disposable income. And, yes, the '80s are back, too, so if you still have your accessories from high school, lucky you!

5. Toilet train. Disposable diapers are expensive—and not earth-friendly.

6. Cook your own gourmet meals, and pack your lunches. The newly opened Taste at Rustan's Supermarket has all the imported fine ingredients you need for a nice French, Italian, Indian, or Mexican meal. Also, load up on recipe books and Food magazine for recipes to give your cook if you don't have time to cook yourself.

7. Buy generic or local. If you use vegetable oil, you can buy the cheapest brand—it doesn't matter, because all vegetable oils are the same (unlike, say, corned beef). Buy a lower-end brand of UHT milk, local cereals, and scout for cheaper, but just-as-good beauty products (which I will not and cannot mention here).

8. Discover the joys of Divisoria and SM department stores.

9. Take out an SSS loan to pay for your credit card bills. The interest is more manageable.

10. Be more efficient with your time. Assign yourself e-mail time (say, 9 to 10 a.m.), meeting time (10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and desk time (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.). We're trying it out right now, and it takes a lot of discipline, but it leaves us more time for our families, our personal errands, and yes, the good life.

(Gina Abuyuan is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. Get your copy now of the October issue with Sharon Cuneta on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_abuyuan@abs.pinoycentral.com)

Achiever doesn't want to be a boss

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

AROUND EIGHT YEARS AGO, I graduated magna cum laude from UP and topped the board exams too. I easily landed a job in a well-known international organization and I have been here for nearly seven years now. My boss likes me a lot and we get along really well. He is also very supportive of my professional growth. He has sent me a few times overseas for training programs and conferences. He has helped me get a promotion and pay increase.

He is set to retire soon and he wants me to take over our department and this means I will be the department chief. He is not saying directly that he wants me to take over but I can feel that he is grooming me and everyone else is saying that I'm the obvious successor. My problem is, I don't want to be a boss.

He and a lot of people say that I am such an achiever, I have a lot of potential and I have to make use of my talents and all that stuff, but I just don't want to be a leader or a manager. I just don't have any managerial or leadership skills in me. At the moment, I have five subordinates who are much older than me and I just hate being their supervisor.

I sometimes feel that I cannot get their respect because of my inexperience. I also perhaps show signs of bad, ineffective and incompetent leadership. I don't know how to manage people.

This may sound weird but I don't really dream nor want to be on top. I'm fine with being an ordinary employee. I don't know why I am like this, maybe because I don't want too many responsibilities. Aside from that, I don't have any PR skills and I'm not much of a people person. I don't want to be in the front line. I prefer to be in the background and I enjoy basking in anonymity.

I know this sounds very cliché-ish but I don't know what to do with my life. Once, I attended a function and met up with my former colleagues and they all seem to be doing really well, just like me I should say.

But the big difference is, they seem to know where they are heading. They seem to know what they want. They are either taking their masters degree or they are finished with it. As for me, I have no plans at all to study again or pursue another field. When I try to examine myself, I feel that I have become uncompetitive and I'm slowly being left behind. Unlike some people who are so passionate about their work, very goal-oriented, driven and ambitious, I have become the complete opposite.

At 29, I still have no goals. I have no plans or vision for the future. I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing five years from now. I feel that I am stagnating and yet, I don't know what to do about it. Sometimes, I feel that I have become like this because I'm from a relatively well-to-do family.

Just to give you an idea of what I have become, I worry where to go shopping during weekends, when my next visit to the facial salon will be, what to wear for work the next day, where my next holidays would be, and other insanely trivial things.

But I absolutely hate myself for spending my days thinking about my past boyfriends! Instead of determining what career path to take or planning what course of action to take, it seems "taking things one at a time" has become my motto. I feel that I should take control of my life and yet, I choose not to take control and I don't know how to take control. Please give me some thoughts on my situation. Thank you very much.

To Be Or Not To Be

Thank you for your letter. The first thing I would advice you to do is to go for career counseling. Typically, when we at Ancilla render this service, we help the person initially through a personality diagnosis and a survey of personal competencies. This step allows the person to enhance her self-awareness. It also provides the context for developing a personal vision and reviewing career alternatives.

Sharing your talents

You mentioned you don't want to be a boss or manager. This is fine. Today, young people have choices as to the kind of lifestyle they want to pursue. You can still be a technical leader. However, try to think of your God given talents. I always recall the gospel story of the parable of the talents. The clear lesson is for us to multiply rather than bury our talents. Then again, God did not give us talents to selfishly enjoy them, but to put them at the service of others.

But I agree with you, in front of you is the choice of "to be or not to be" a leader. Other people see a lot of potential in you. Is it possible that the talented lady who passed with magna cum laude honors and topped the board is now scared and afraid to fail? When we stay in our comfort zone too long, this is precisely what happens, we stop taking risks and true enough, we retrogress. The good news is the weakness you fear come from lack of skill. You can learn the competencies required to be an excellent manager and leader. You can initially take up short courses (Ancilla Business Training Center has regular offerings) and then try applying what you learn on the job.

Managerial training

I recall, the first time years ago when I was promoted to supervisor, I was leading a creative team. I thought the skills needed to be a successful technical person would be similar to managing people. I was mistaken. I was miserable, a total failure till I shared my problem with my boyfriend (my husband now) who asked, how many in your staff are unhappy? I said all of them. He told me with candor, "Nothing is wrong with them, you are the problem." He suggested I take up a short course and gain some managerial skills.

I understood later I have four friends in "planning, leading, organizing and controlling." Then through experience and later through a formal masters degree at the Asian Institute of Management, I polished my management ability. But learning continues. I am still learning new things everyday.

These moments of "cocooning" when you are thinking and reflecting are precious moments. They will provide you energy for the next stage in your life adventure. All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@-ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Gov't seen exceeding expenditure ceiling in Sept.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT likely exceeded its expenditure ceiling for September, as it paid off more maturing obligations during the period, officials said.

The Department of Budget and Management had intended to control government expenditures in September up to only P83.402 billion. However, preliminary figures indicated that the ceiling might have been exceeded by P7-P9 billion.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua said that as of August, the total government expenditure for the first eight months of the year was P32 billion below the ceiling. This would likely go down to P23-P25 billion in September.

The delay in the release of the 2005 budget forced the government to adopt last year's budget for this year, thus certain expenditure programs were pushed to September.

The national government's major expenditures include debt-servicing, Internal revenue allotment, salaries of government employees, operational expenses of public offices and infrastructure projects.

Its 2005 budget was set at P907.6 billion, with more than 30 percent of the amount earmarked for servicing maturing obligations.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said September was usually the period when the government was paying more maturing obligations, compared with other months.

Pamana raising ₱190M to pay maturing plans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED FIRM PAMANA INC. hopes to raise about P190 million from the sale of its real-estate assets to pay some 2,500 outstanding plan holders.

Lauro J. Jocson, senior vice-president and trust officer of Prudential Bank—the trustee bank of Pamana—told the INQUIRER that Pamana had real estate receivables worth P8 million and other real estate assets worth P178 million in its trust fund.

"The company is in payment mode. We are paying outstanding plans as they fall due," Jocson said in a telephone interview.

The sale of the said assets has yet to be approved by the SEC.

Pamana still exists as a company but is no longer selling open-ended educational plans. It stopped selling this product in 1990 when the cap on tuition fee increases was removed, he explained.

The SEC is currently reviewing Pamana's plan to dispose of its assets. The SEC is also closely looking at whether the proceeds from the sale of Pamana's assets will go to its trust fund.

An SEC official earlier noted that there was an existing joint venture between Pamana and a company called Achievers on the development and sale of the Pamana's property assets.

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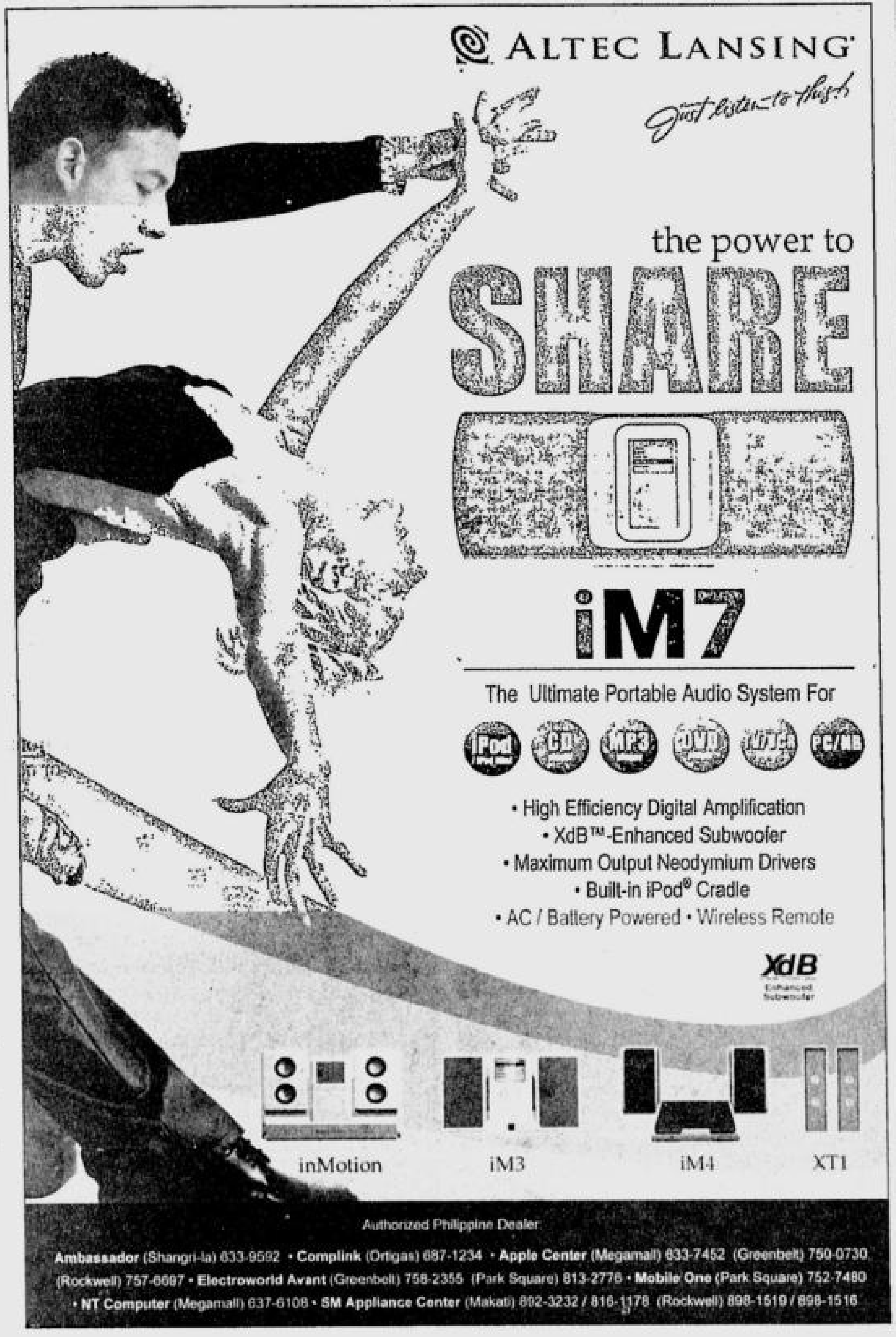
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MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.965M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb jacuzi 3M 9487112

PASIG

Greenwoods Village
LA204m² FA280m² 6BR 4TB Pool • 0919-2735293

QUEZON CITY

NEW 3 STOREY TOWNHOUSE NEW NEAR UST ESPANA WELCOME ROTONDA 7337767/69/73

NR UP TRMS 10YRS 3BR 2TB P2.7M LOT 100SQM FLR 60SQM 4BR 3TB P5.0M LOT 426SM FLR 120SM 7312110 7312189

QC 4.5M, 3BR, 3CR, 3CG, RFO, Remax 4190843/09178243842

RIZAL

Fairmont Hills Antipolo
LA1545m² FA750m² 5BR 6TB Pool P12M • 0919-2735293

OTHER AREAS

BRANDNEW H&L 1M-25M (Mon-Sat) 842-1914/842-9570

BULACAN

Lipat Agad 26T DP 2BR TH 9356639•09179196852

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

10% DP Move-In Exec Res Condo Nr Makati 0919-6375053 8736426

10%DP Lipat Agad!
1.3M-Up 3Yrs. No Int 2-4BR C5 Near Fort / Mkti 0917-8169849

1.3M Resort Type Condo
RFO 10%DP Lipat Agad Nr. D'Fort Flexi Terms 09194699577

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Std., 123BR start@1.9M or 10T/MO
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•MACTAN BAY TOWER•
MODEL UNITS RDY 2 VIEW
(PRE-SELL)123BR Low As 21T/MO
5242760 09178248178 EDWIN

RFO Resort Type Condo
nr Market² C-5 Studio 778T; 1&2br P1.2M Up • 0919-2784806 Vince

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

FOR LEASE
ORIENTAL GARDENS
MAKATI
DON CHINO ROCES AVE.
RETAIL SPACES AVAILABLE
GROUND/2ND FLOOR
35 SQM UP
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8575909 / 8926605

MANILA

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BAYVIEW INT'L TOWERS
ROXAS BLVD PARAÑAQUE
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GRD FLR UNITS
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FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL
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8Wack-Wack 3bdr+maidsm+ 2carpark fully furnished •0917-8865134•607-0405•

CONDO, BNEW, 09192169817

MANDA NEAR SHAW
BnewThse/3stry/3br/ 3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.645M8903461

Paragon Plaza, 2 Level 4Bdrms Fully Furnished P17M • Jeck 0919-2735293

PARANAQUE

8 DOOR Twnhse
Prkg each Lopez Village with Tenants P18M 0919-2735293

BRITANNY T/house Promo
Blk Lot 16 6.8M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 20 6.6M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 14 7.0M now P6.0M
PORTOFINO LA522 P6.8M now P5.9M Call Tina Morales 806-6309 ; 0917-8413300

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay 0% Int move-in 9126976

OLYMPIC HTS Eastwood City 3BR W/parking P4.2M 687-2773 0917-8278714 DBO

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

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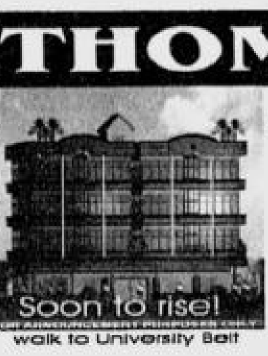

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0917-8479276

APARTMENT

MANILA

4 DOOR Iriga St.
Dapitan 214m² 0919-2735293

PASAY

5 DOOR with Tenants with Monthly Income P55K Harrison Area P6M 0919-2735293

LOT

RIZAL

BeverlyHills 862m² 2500/m² 842-5621

SAN JUAN

Nr. Wilson St. 425m² 13M bes. Manhann Rest. 0917-8583378

OTHER PROVINCIAL

847 M CATICLAN LOT
Near Pier 2 Boracay, Hi-Way CF • 0917-7977326 Chan

LAGUNA

AYALA WESTGROVE
Sta. Rosa Laguna 548sqm with Greenbelt View Contact Jun 09154057078

Calamba Palo Alto 3HA. P21M 8425621

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Baliwag Bulacan 3500 m2
120 sow level piggery
w/ bungalow 09179184381

Lipa City Bats Ideal for Vegetable/Fruit/Ornamental Plants/Horse Stable Cool Climate •0917-8865134•

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

4BR Res Grge Md's Rm 6075 Palma St. Rockwell nr Ateneo •T-8706705•

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 1BR FURN 11T 9299835

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BDM Up-Dn / 1CR / T8973770 StgH2O/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASAY

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BUSINESS RENTAL

CUBAO labshp 500m² 7257342

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-48 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 8342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

Business/Salary 850-2265

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY OLD HOUSES READY FOR DEMOLITION 951-1366 ; 0927-7115000

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

02 LANCER GLS 1.8L A/T 1st Own Casa-Maintained 0917-801-2260 or 931-2294

PAJERO Exceed09266911125

TOYOTA

Granvia 520Tup 09266911125

PAJERO Exceed09266911125

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333882

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1% w/o taking car 7880183-84

1% w/oTaking Car 8959454

1% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1% w/oTaking Car 3650974/76

1% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

1%w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262760

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

Husky 13T male 9205668

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Pls Call 721-3736

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AGENCIA de MAKATI-8897958
SECONDO 2/F GLORIETTA 1 / 8940282

WE BUY DEFECT TV / A'CON / ETC. 7413178

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

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MISCELLANEOUS

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★SURVEILLANCE CAMERA
MINI-PABX 934-8571

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Oct. 12, 2005, Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon Respectively, May13-, June 12, 2005 SONS of J. LANUZA. Auctioneer. (PDI - Sept. 5, 2005)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on OCT. 12, 2005, Wed. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively May 13- June. 12, 2005.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - Sept. 5, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the SALES INV. # 000610 was lost. Under the name of Brgy 55 Zone 7. If found Pls Call 851-0850

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Please call 6453426; 6454681; 09178969535

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Office Sec.23-30 yr. good Eng. Col Graduate Single,lnkg.o 8908270

MALE/FEMALE

Sales Exec. 21-30yr. good Eng. Col. Graduate aggressive,lnkg.o 890-8270

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Experienced FUNDRAISERS For HOPE WORLDWIDE Email Resume at rmm_727@yahoo.com

WANTED EXPERT SALES MARKETING CALL 8090024

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 2
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

Land Reg. Case No. 2003-02 LRA Record No. N-77078

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region III-DENR, San Fernando, Pampanga; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in San Fernando, Pampanga; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Guagua, Pampanga; Felix Coronel, Macario Zapanta, Apolonio Garcia, Ramon Manalo, all in San Vicente (Ebus), Guagua, Pampanga Road, c/o the Municipal Engineer, Guagua Pampanga; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An amended application having been filed in the above entitled case by **TIMOTEO Z. ALVIZ**, married to Mercedes G. Alviz; **DEOGRACIAS Z. ALVIZ**, widower, represented by their Atty-in-Fact Zenaida A. Soreno-Becuran, Sta. Rita Pampanga, thru Manalo & Maninang Law Offices, 2nd Floor Alemars Guagua Arcade, Sto. Cristo, Guagua, Pampanga by Atty. Carlos D. Maninang, praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land.

A parcel of land (Lot 1537 of the cadastral survey of Guagua as shown on plan As-1091, LRC Rec. No.), situated in the Barrio of Ebus, Municipality of Guagua, Province of Pampanga Bounded on the NW, along line 1-2 by lot 954 (Ramon Manalo); on the NE, along line 2-3 by lot 967 (Felix Coronel, lot 8 Psu-131328 Acc.); on the SE 3-4 by lot 962 (Macario Zapanta); along lines 4-5-6 by lot 955 (Apolonio Garcia), all of Guagua Cadastre; on the SW along line 6-1 by Barrio Road (1000m wide) Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N.55 deg. 18'W.,8922.71m from BLLM No. 1, 376-D, Guagua Cadastre;

thence N. 54 deg. 35'E;	177.48 m. to point 2;
thence S. 34 deg. 18'E;	89.47 m. to point 3;
thence S. 52 deg. 43'W;	115.11 m. to point 4;
thence N. 36 deg. 05'W;	36.01 m. to point 5;
thence S. 54 deg. 34'W;	59.81 m. to point 6;
thence N. 35 deg. 52'W;	57.08 m. to the point of

beginning, containing an area of **FOURTEEN THOUSAND FORTY EIGHT (14,048) SQUARE METERS** more or less. All points referred to are indicated on plan and are marked on the ground by old PS cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cms. Bearings grid; this lot was prepared under As-1091 which was approved on June 15, 1971.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at the **Municipal Trial Court, Branch 2, Guagua, Pampanga, Philippines, on the 15th day of November, 2005 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning**, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear in court at same time and place aforesaid your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the **HON. AMOR M. DIMATATAC-ROMERO**, Acting Presiding Judge of said Court, on the 30th day of June, 2005.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 8th day of August, 2005.

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) BENEDICTO B. ULEP
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
(Sgd.)GLORIETA P. LACAMBRA
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI-Oct.5, 2005)

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Pototan, Iloilo

INVITATION TO BID

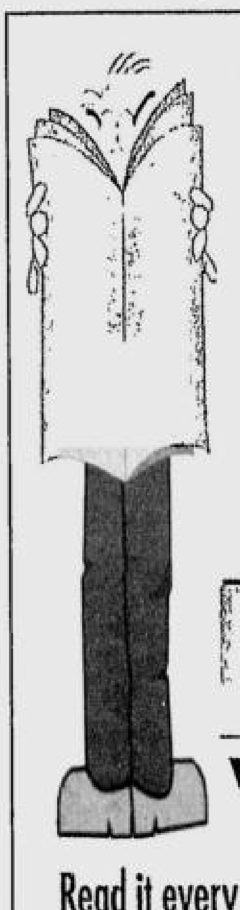
The Iloilo II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO II) is inviting interested bidders for the bidding of Electrical Materials and Poles at ILECO II October 12, 2005, at 1:30 pm., Main Office, Brgy. Cau-ayan, Pototan, Iloilo.

Interested bidders can pick up bidding documents at ILECO II Main Office, Brgy. Cau-ayan, Pototan, Iloilo.

For further information. please contact Mr. Fernando Lasafin or Engr. Redmond Roquios or call at Tel. Nos. 529-80-63 or 529-86-68.

(Sgd.) RAMON P. APURA, SR.
General Manager

(PDI- October 5, 2005)



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JOB Market

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IFC International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established an assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises (PEP Philippines) in the Philippines. PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking:

Communications Officer (CO)

The Communications Officer will be responsible for managing PEP Philippines communications strategy. This will include managing external public and media relations as well as internal communications. The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- At least 8 years experience in public relations and/or media, corporate communications
- A proven track record of developing, managing and executing a communications strategy
- Good technical skills – crafting media releases, organizing press events, developing feature stories
- Extensive contacts within the Philippine Media in both Manila and Davao
- Experience of donor-funded activities or SME development preferred
- Post-graduate degree required

Environment Specialist (ES)

The Environment Specialist will be responsible for providing specialist assistance on all PEP Philippines projects. The specialist will assess environmental risks and will develop and manage projects to mitigate those risks. Further the specialist will be responsible for managing stand alone technical assistance programs that promote the business case for sustainability. The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- A proven track record in environmental consulting
- Extensive experience of project management, preferably from a donor funded organization
- An in-depth understanding of sustainability and how to develop the "business case"
- Experience in designing, leading and participating in training, technical assistance and capacity-building assignments
- A knowledge of development and experience in working with SMEs preferred
- Post-graduate degree required

Social Specialist (SS)

The Social Specialist will be responsible for providing specialist assistance on all PEP Philippines projects. The specialist will assess the social risks of all projects and will in particular ensure equitable gender consideration is made at all times. Further the specialist will be responsible for managing stand alone technical assistance programs that promote corporate social responsibility. The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- A proven track record in developing social/community development projects and in particular of working on gender equitable projects
- An in-depth understanding of the challenges facing women in business in the Philippines
- Extensive experience of project management, preferably from a donor funded organization
- An in-depth understanding of community development, gender empowerment and corporate social responsibility
- Experience in designing, leading and participating in training, technical assistance and capacity-building assignments experience is preferred
- A knowledge of development and experience in working with SMEs preferred
- Post-graduate degree required

The positions will be based in PEP Philippines Manila or Davao Office. Salaries will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumés to asensohr@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on October 19, 2005. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

OK BIKOL now on its 9th year

The 9th Orgullo Kan Bikol Regional Trade Fair, now dubbed *OK BIKOL*, will be held on Oct. 20-23, at Hall 3, 5th Level, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. This is an annual marketing event which aims to showcase the distinct products, ethnic foods and delicacies of the Bicol Region.

Regional Director Jocelyn L.B. Blanco of DTI said, "We assist our small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in marketing their fine products. By way of this trade fair, we enjoin domestic and foreign buyers to take a closer look and become more aware of what our homegrown SMEs produce."

For this year, a total of 84 manufacturers will join OK Bikol Trade Fair. Of this number, 29 will come from Albay, 21 from Camarines Sur, 11 each for Catanduanes and Sorsogon, six from Carp beneficiaries (1 booth per province) and three each from Camarines Norte and Masbate.

Five institutional exhibitors will also join this fair. These are: Department of Agriculture Region V, Philexport Bicol Chapter, Provincial Government of Camarines Sur, Provincial Government of Camarines Norte and Haciendas de Naga Enjoy Realty and Development Corporation.

Product focus includes gifts and holiday decors (boxes, picture frames, stationeries, desk accessories, souvenir items, Christmas, Easter and Holiday decors), home furnishings (furniture, housewares, home décor, garden articles), foods (fresh and processed foods, dried and processed fish), organic and natural products (organic food, natural personal care, food supplements and medicinal products) and wearables (fashion accessories including jewelries, leather goods, footwear - e.g. bags, garments, hats, gloves, synthetic hair).

The fair will also highlight products under the One-Town-One Product (Otop) Program of the DTI and Local Government Units. Otop is a priority program of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to promote entrepreneurship and create jobs in the countryside.

With the valuable support of DTI-V's usual partners (Citem, LGUs, line agencies, Philexport and Apfti), Orgullo Kan Bikol has become a milestone, as Bicolanos pursue aspirations for globally-competitive enterprises from Region V.

OK BIKOL 2005 is a project of the Department of Trade and Industry Region V, Center for International Expositions and Missions (Citem), Philippine Exporters Conferderation (Philexport), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region V and Advocate of Philippine Fair Trade Inc

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2005-023

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (Please see Item no. 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on September 28, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	Oct. 25, 2005 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Lube Oil for Bantayan DPP & Power Barge 113	PB051025-MMER3516 HO-BBD-05-0017 HO-B13-05-0015	2,178,000.00	P1,000.00
II		Rental of 2MW generating sets for Marinduque Island	PB051025-MMVB3607 HO-MNQ-05-0045	3,500,000.00	P1,000.00
III		Repair Kits, Filter Element, Bearing, etc. for Marinawa Diesel Power Plant	PB041110-MMAD1982(PB2) SL-MCD040052/53/54/55	1,177,750.00	P 500.00
IV	Oct. 25, 2005 2:00 PM Kañao Room	Engine Set Model, 3012TAG2 "Perkins or equivalent" for Torrijos DPP	PB050705-MMAM2988(PB3) SL-TOR-05-0027	4,000,000.00	P1,000.00
V		Diesel Genset, Dale Perkins, 3012TAG2A for PB 113 & 116	PB051025-MMJP3608 HO-WVO-05-002	10,000,000.00	P2,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I - V	Oct. 11, 2005	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
THE BAC, MMSD - SECRETARIAT
Materials Management Department
Materials Management Services Division
Agham Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-3190, 921-3541 loc. 5599 & 5477
mitriñanos@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. 921-3190
http://www.napocor.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, BAC-MMSD

(PDI - Sept. 29 & Oct. 5, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
METRO MANILA			
AM-ML-118	No. 100 Industry Road II corner Reparo Road, Araneta University Village (Now Potrero), Malabon City	2,380 m^2 industrial lot (TCT No. M-21827) with bldgs. & imp.	P 25,000,000.00
BATANGAS			
AM-MC-120	Bo. Tumaway, Talisay	16,995 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-107334 & T-107335)	P 9,901,900.00
AM-JA-122	Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School), San Rafael, Sto. Tomas	1,185 m^2 residential-commercial lot (TCT No. T-86841) with buildings and improvement.	P 3,931,800.00
BULACAN			
AM-PY-123	Along Cagayan Valley National Road, Brgy. Malimbubong, San Idelfonso	80,965 m^2, adjoining 3 parcels of industrial lots (TCT) Nos. T-202018 to T-202020) with bldgs. &Imp.	P 79,187,000.00
LGP-1	Tabang, Plandel	1,686 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No T-118054) with bldgs. & imp. and machinery & equipment	P 6,284,900.00
AM-MR-124	Along Camia St., Manzano Subd., Brgy. Ibayo, Marilao	294 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-351876)	P 987,840.00
CAVITE			
AM-DE-125	No. 143 Sampaloc St., Justinville Subdivision, Bo. Panapaan, Bacoor	180 m^2 residential lot (TCT No.T-1109645) with bldgs. & imp.	P 1,294,600.00
LAGUNA			
AM-MR-126	Lot 2 Blk. 15 St. Joseph 4, Brgy. Butong, Cabuyao	80 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-469873) with bldgs. & imp.	P 358,000.00
PANGASINAN			
	Pinewood Village, Bo. Banding, Pozzorubio	7,963 vacant subdivision lots	
AM-JA-127a	Blk. 15 Lots 5-13, 15-29	2,230 m^2 (covered 24 TCTs)	P 2,230,000.00
AM-JA-127b	16 5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-23, 25, 27-29	1,860 m^2 (covered by 20 TCTs)	P 1,860,000.00
AM-JA-127c	17 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 1	1,427 m^2 (covered by 12 TCTs)	P 1,427,000.00
AM-JA-127d	19 3, 5 - 28	2,446 m^2 (covered by 25 TCTs)	P 2,446,000.00
		19 subdivision lots with resd'l. blgs.	
AM-JA-127e	Blk. 15 Lot 14	90 m^2 TCT No. 272577	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127f	30	120 m^2 TCT No. 272593	P 230,000.00
AM-JA-127g	16 6	100 m^2 TCT No. 272542	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127h	10	90 m^2 TCT No. 272546	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127i	16	90 m^2 TCT No. 272552	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127j	24	90 m^2 TCT No. 272561	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127k	26	90 m^2 TCT No. 272563	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127l	30	120 m^2 TCT No. 272567	P 230,000.00
AM-JA-127m	17 7	100 m^2 TCT No. 272594	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127n	9	100 m^2 TCT No. 272596	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127o	13	100 m^2 TCT No. 272599	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127p	15	100 m^2 TCT No. 272602	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127q	17	100 m^2 TCT No. 272604	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127r	19	100 m^2 TCT No. 272606	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127s	21	100 m^2 TCT No. 272608	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127t	23	100 m^2 TCT No. 272637	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127u	25	100 m^2 TCT No. 272611	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127v	27	107 m^2 TCT No. 272613	P 217,200.00
AM-JA-127w	19 4	90 m^2 TCT No. 272619	P 151,200.00
AM-JA-127x	Bo. Alipangpang, Pozzorubio	18,230 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 272617 & 272615)	P 2,115,900.00
RIZAL			
AM-DE-128	Lot 31 Blk. 14, Montano Drive, Palos Verdes Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City	300 m^2 vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-301965)	P 735,000.00
SRG-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd. Brgy. Muzon, Angono	240 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-680746) with bldg. & imp.	P 844,900.00
QUEZON			
AM-ML-129	Mamala, Sariaya	62,108 m^2 interior lot (TCT No. 392734) with bldgs & Imps.	P 17,200,000.00
TARLAC			
AM-ML-130	McArthur Highway, Bo. San Rafael, Tarlac City	4,310 m^2 , adjoining 4 parcels of vacant commercial/ industrial lots (TCT Nos. 381735 to 381738)	P 32,325,000.00
ZAMBOANGA			
AM-MC-132	Lot 26 Blk 14 Country Homes Phase III, Ayala, Zamboanga City	162 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. 185,488) with bldg. & imp.	P 316,600.00
CHATTELS			
AM-ED-133	Brgy Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", 85 footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, twin propelled Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons, with machinery and navigational equipment	P 8,925,000.00
AM-JA-134	Brgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna	Various machinery and equipment for Alkali-Ion/ Electrolytic Water Treatment	P 9,833,900.00
DAS-003B	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit X-ray Machine with Tomography, Siemens, SN 124477, Made in Germany	P 151,900.00
DAS-003C	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Operating Room Light, Dual, AMSCO Challenger	P 112,500.00
DAS-003E	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	Two (2) units Ventilator, BEAR 5, SN 3063 & 4001	P 275,000.00
DAS-003J	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Autoclave Sterilizer, Pelton & Crane, SN A 6-3928	P 252,500.00
DAS-003K	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	Twenty seven (27) units Hospital Beds, Joules/Hilrom type	P 212,600.00
DAS-003N	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Anesthesia Machine, Ohio, SN ABEF00004	P 171,900.00
DAS-004AB	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit reconditioned generating set, Nippon Sharyo, 150 KVA, powered by HINO DK 10T Diesel Engine with Serial No. KV47200; Chassis No. 19010289; 3-Phase; 220 V; 394 Amperes; 60 cycles; 1800 rpm, with standard accessories	P 683,100.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; (046) 4161389/4161390/850-3637 and 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS, (086) 231-7352/826-0289 and 818-9511 local 1486. for SRG; and (052) 480-7066/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LGP.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - October. 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/contractors classified and registered by the Inter-Agency Committee for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT — APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT / FUND SOURCE

1. CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CENTER, BRGY. DADIANGAS WEST HALL, GSC — 534,535.39, Source of Fund: CY 2004 AB

Scope of Work:
a. Construction of 2-storey building approximately 35.60sq.m. for ground floor and floor slab at second floor 35.60 sq.m., 2-units comfort room at ground floor, door and window at ground floor, finishing and ceiling, electrical, sanitary works at ground floor, masonry works for ground and second floor.
Project Duration: 90 CALENDAR DAYS

2. REHAB./REPAIR OF FORMER NDC BLDG.(for CEO & CGSO use), CEO COMPOUND, BULA, GSC — 2,435,196.10, Source of Fund: CY 2002 SB # 2

Scope of Work:
a. Rehab./Repair of 180.00 sq.m. floor area w/ 28.80 sq.m. roofing area includes concrete works, masonry works, steel works, roofing works, carpentry works, metal doors/windows, electrical works, demolition, excavation, embankment & other misc.
Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS

3. KAPLAB DRAINAGE, BARANGAY DADIANGAS SOUTH, GSC — 1,335,731.46, Source of Fund: CY 2004AB & CY 2005AB

Scope of Work:
a. Kaplab Drainage at Barangay Dadiangas South composed of 7ln. m open lined canal, 116m of 60† RCCP with curb & gutter, 1-unit headwall, 1-unit wingwall, removal of existing concrete pavement & removal of other structures affected by the project.
Project Duration: 71 CALENDAR DAYS

4. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM — 8,264,620.99, Source of Fund: CY 2004AB

Scope of Work:
b. Geometric improvement, installation of traffic signal system, installation of road signs and pavement markings.
Project Duration: 130 CALENDAR DAYS
Note: contractor/bidder should have undertaken at least 100 similar projects, other criteria please refer to BAC and www.gensantos.gov.ph

5. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE @ CAMIAS ST, CASQUEJO SR, LAPU-LAPU ST. TO SANTIAGO BLVD, GSC — 895,110.01, Source of Fund: CY 2003AB

Scope of Work:
a. Drainage line composed of 130.63m, 119.00m of 36" dia RCCP, 6.0m of 24" dia RCCP with curb & gutter and 6 units of manhole with cover, includes embankment, dewatering and removal of existing structures affected by the project
Project Duration: 80 CALENDAR DAYS

6. PARTIAL ROAD CONCRETING W/ DRAINAGE @ LITANVILLE PHASE 1 & PHASE 2, SINAWAL — 2,495,673.04, Source of Fund: CY 2004 & 2005AB

Scope of Work:
a. Partial Rd Concreting composed of 514.84 ln.m., 500m wide w/ 2 types of drainage open lined canal for type 1 concrete 52.8 ln. m., for type 2-4" CHB load bearing 1000 PSI, 20 ln.m w/ 3 transition wall also includes clearing & grubbing of 1pc. Tree, & removal of existing pavement affected by the project.
Project Duration: 80 CALENDAR DAYS

7. ADDITIONAL DRAINAGE LINE ALONG SALAZAR ST., GSC — 1,089,822.87, Source of Fund: CY 2005 SB # 1

Scope of Work:
a. Construction of drainage composed of 258ln.m. of 24" dia. RCCP & 3ln.m. of 12" dia, RCCP w/ curb & gutter, also includes clearing & grubbing of 2 pcs. Trees, removal of driveways/open lined canal w/ cover & sidewalk, curb & gutter, other structures & obstruction affected by the project.
Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS

8. CONTINUATION OF BEAUTIFICATION/IMPROVEMENT OF OVAL PLAZA (COMPLETION OF STAGE EXPANSION/RENOVATION AT OVAL PLAZA), GSC — 2,276,749.42, Source of Fund: CY 2004 AB

Scope of Work:
b. Continuation of beautification/improvement of oval plaza completion of stage expansion/renovation at oval plaza approximately 100% of the total building area. It includes backfill/embankment, concrete works, masonry works, smooth finished plain cement plaster,; ceiling works, tile works and floor finishing, doors/windows, painting works, plumbing fixtures, electrical works and other miscellaneous items.
Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS

Deadline for submission of eligibility documents :	October 17, 2005, 5:00 PM @ BAC Office, 2nd Flr., City Hall Bldg., GSC
Issuance of Bid documents for Eligible bidders	October 26, 2005 BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall Bldg., GSC
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 3, 2005, 10 AM, City Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, GSC
Dropping of Bids	November 15, 2005, 10 AM, BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall, GSC
Opening of Bids	November 15, 2005, 10 AM, BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall, GSC

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, BAC Office, 2nd flr. City Hall, Bldg. GSC (tel nos. 083-301-3834 and 083-301-0553). Above projects were posted also @ www.gensantos.gov.ph and www.procurementservice.org.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO O. SALANGSANG
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct. 5 & 12, 2005)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	368,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52.5	51.5	52	1,428,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	500,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	47.5	47.5	353,400
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	26.5	26.5	326,900
Philippine National Bank	32	32	31	31	615,800
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	100
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	22,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	102,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2945	2950	2945	2950	650
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2070	2080	2070	2080	2,090
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.96	1,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	730	735	54,790
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	118,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	1,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	2,084,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1695	1695	1690	1695	72,960
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,530,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	38,500
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	21	20.5	20.5	506,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	17,388,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	3,224,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.02	1	1	850,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	767,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	318,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.75	1,172,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	106,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	29.5	29.5	17,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	37	35.5	37	510,200
San Miguel Pure Foods A	56	56	55	56	300
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	180,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	44,000
San Miguel Corp. B	93	93	90.5	91.5	6,700
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	2,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	290	290	282.5	282.5	200,050
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	5	4.85	5	400,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	160,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	169,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	830,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.5	32,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	0.98	0.99	3,730,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	490,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	600,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	4,724,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	218,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.2	4.95	4.95	506,000
F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42	40.5	41	924,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.85	650,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	4,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	3,640,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,480,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	256,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	217	215	217	451,110
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.92	0.88	0.88	4,870,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	818,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	3,000
Far Eastern University	600	620	600	620	6,710
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.2	11,271,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	230,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,890,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	5,520,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.125	1,450,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,370,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	8,331,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.93	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	180,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	1,033,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	1,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	4,120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	32,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	4,820,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	646,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	42,200
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	4,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.65	158,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	4,600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	250,000

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. said in reaction to a news report on Page B3 of the Inquirer's Oct. 3 issue ("Jollibee drops bid for Indian firm") that it has not disclosed any information about the status of any specific acquisition targets in India, nor information on the acquisition price of Red Ribbon. According to Jollibee, it is still completing its due diligence on Red Ribbon, and that the company as a matter of policy does not comment on specific potential acquisition targets.

***

C&P Homes Inc. directors resolved to amend the company's capital restructuring plan, changing the proposed increase in the authorized capital stock from P500 million divided into 500 million common shares with par value of a peso each, to P7 billion divided into 7 billion common shares with par value of a peso each. The Board also approved the issuance of 3,681,911,641 shares out of the proposed increase in authorized capital stock, at par or the total issue price of P3,681,911,641 to the following LTCP holders subscribing to capital increase: Fine Properties Inc., Adelfa Properties Inc. and Brittany Corp.

***

GLOBAL Business Holdings Inc. directors approved the declaration of a four-percent cash dividend in favor of holders of Preferred Shares as of Oct. 19. The dividend amounting to P57,272,690.40 shall be taken out of the company's total profits on hand, which has a balance of P136,396,235.25 as of Sept. 30, of which P60,210,600.87 is available for cash dividend. The cash dividend translates to P0.40 per share based on a par value of P10 per share.

***

GLOBAL Business Holdings Inc. elected Solomon Cua director on Oct. 3.

***

A BROWN Co. Inc. purchased 10,000 shares of BRN on Sept. 30 at P0.79 per share, and 220,000 BRN shares on Oct. 3 at P0.80 per share.***Compiled by: Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

Shares close lower on fresh political woes

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.38 PERCENT LOWER yesterday on fresh political concerns after conflicting claims about an alleged plot to assassinate President Gloria Arroyo, dealers said.

They said indications the government finances faltered again in September added to the negative tone.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 7.47 points to 1,938.35. Turnover stood at 366 million shares worth P892.91 million. Declines led advancers 42 to 16, with 54 stocks unchanged.

Dealers said an alleged plot to assassinate President Arroyo by her opponents spooked the market and showed how political tensions continue at work just underneath the surface.

"Talk of possible destabilization attempts have prompted investors to stay out of the market for the meantime," said Dianne Sy at Unicapital Securities.

Citiseconline.com analyst Mark Alan Canizares agreed, saying: "The market has been trading this way given the current political noise." Dealers said indications that September may be a deficit month for the government's fiscal performance also dampened investor appetite.

Finance officials on Monday indicated that the government likely posted a budget deficit in September, swinging from a surplus the previous month, as expenditure growth exceeded the rise in revenue.

"The performance last month raises doubt on the sustainability of the government to improve its fiscal position," Sy said.

Dealers said investors are now waiting to see if the government keeps its promise to implement the new value-added tax (VAT) law, which removes the exemption from the tax of sectors such as oil, electricity and transport, despite rising oil costs.

The new VAT law is the centerpiece of the government's program to address its budget deficit.

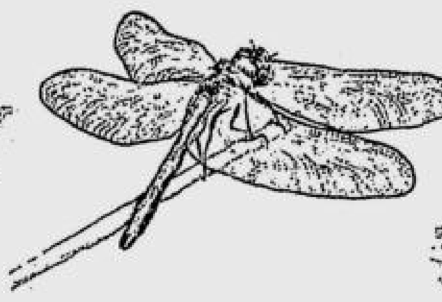
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, adding P5 at P1,695.

SM Investments Corp. gained P1 to P217 while unit SM Prime Holdings was up 10 centavos at P7.30.

Ayala Land Inc. gained 20 centavos to P8 while parent Ayala Corp. fell P10 to P292.50. Bank of the Philippine Islands ended unchanged at P52 while Globe Telecom was down P20 at P735.*AFP*

Lanius schach
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE

Insecta Odanata
DRAGONFLY



Nectarinia jugularis
OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD

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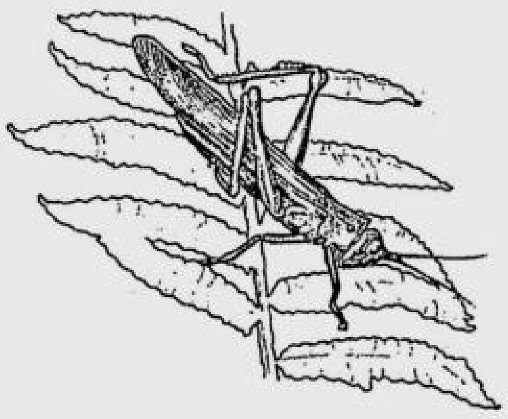
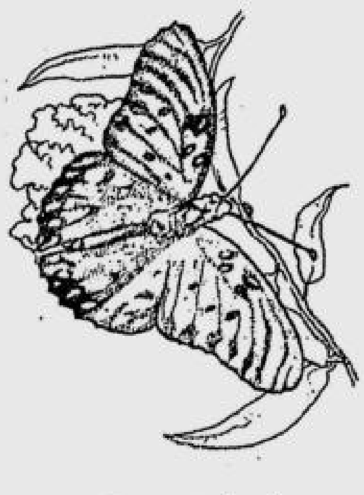
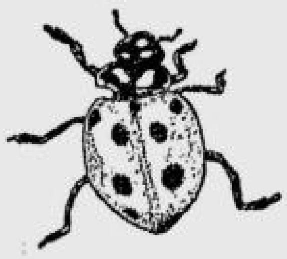


Acrididae
GRASSHOPPER



Danaus plexippus
BUTTERFLY

Tyto capensis
GRASS OWL



Coccinellidae
LADY BUG

Hirundo tahitica
PACIFIC SWALLOW

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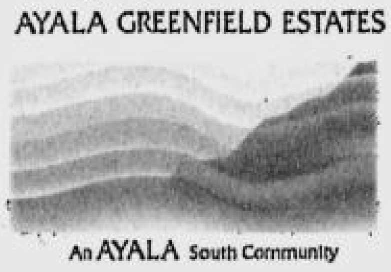

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Gov't to sell real estate assets of Manila Gas, pursue privatization

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT WILL AGAIN attempt today to sell the property assets of Manila Gas Corp. to finally push through with its privatization after several failed biddings.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who is in charge of the government's privatization program, told reporters yesterday that the Privatization Council would now be willing to award the assets even if only one bidder will show up in today's auction.

In the last bidding held Sept. 14, only one bidder—Robinson's Land Corp—participated, thus it was declared a failed auction.

The assets to be sold include two in Paco, Manila, and one in Cebu City.

The first property in Paco measures 12,271 square meters and will be sold for at least P138.66 million.

The second property, also in Paco, measures 39,995 square meters with an indicative price of P637.26 million.

The property in Cebu City is estimated to be worth a little over P9 million.

The government targets to raise about P785 million from the sale of Manila Gas assets.

Nissan to make 2 models in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES Inc. will start assembling two yet unnamed models in its Sta. Rosa plant next year under a new global business strategy.

NMPI president and chief executive Leman Lee said in an interview that under Nissan's global Value Up campaign, Sta. Rosa would stop assembling Nissan Cefiros and Nissan Sentras, which would be transferred to Thailand.

"We would be bringing in and assemble completely knocked down kits of a multi-purpose vehicle and a sedan that would come in 1.8-liter and 2-liter variants," Lee said.

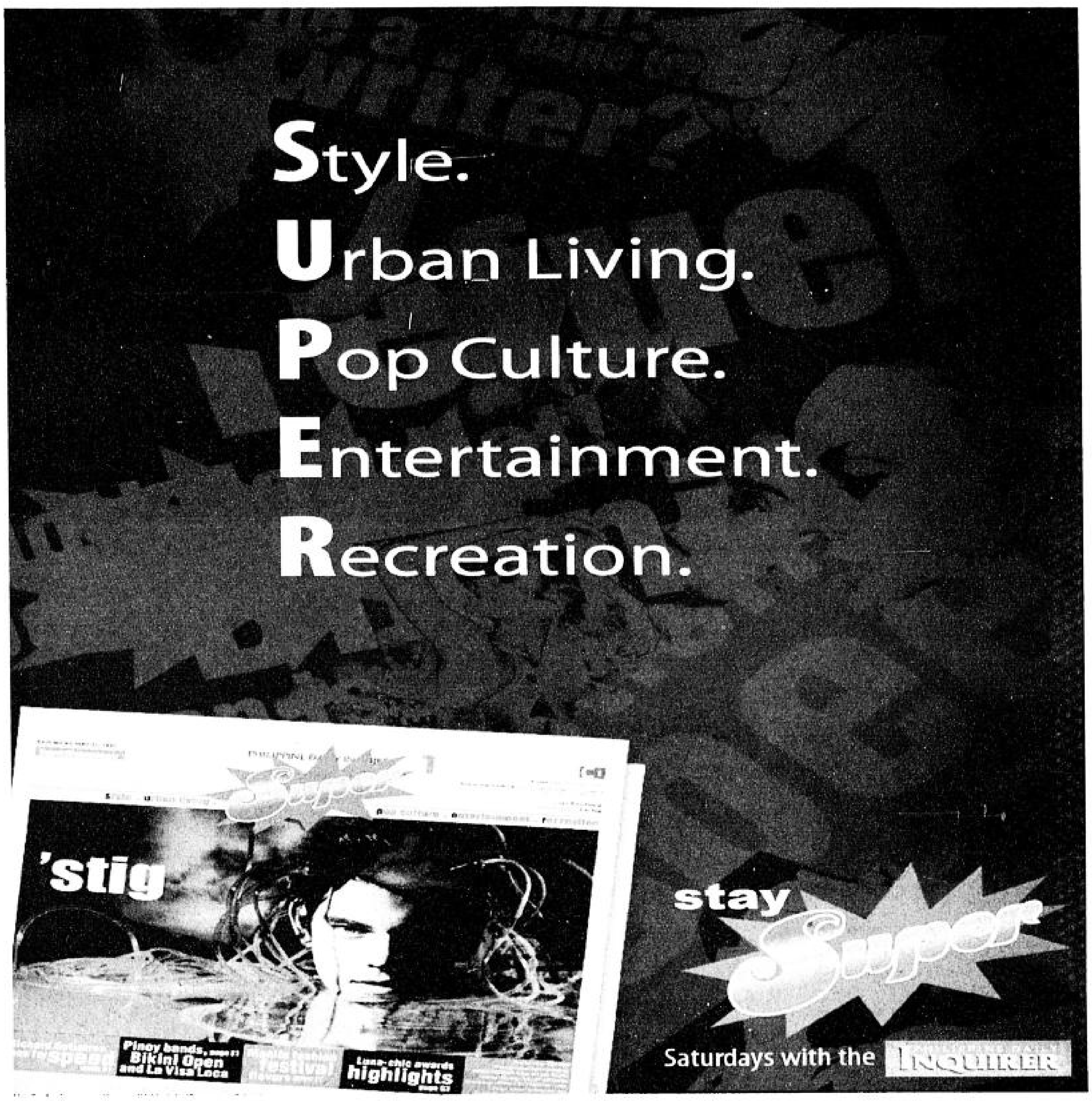
He said the Xtrail continued to be one of NMPI's best selling models and that it was continuing the assembly of the compact SUV in Sta. Rosa.

The official explained that the Value Up campaign entailed selling at least 8,000 units of vehicles in the local market in 2007.

Lee said meeting the target would be a big feat as NMPI forecasts a turnover of 5,500 units this year.

CURRENCIES

October 4, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.839278	1.000000	56.0250
Japan	Yen	0.007355	0.008763	0.4909
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473101	1.755200	98.3351
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108191	0.128909	7.2221
Switzerland	Franc	0.644607	0.768049	43.0299
Canada	Dollar	0.720658	0.858664	48.1067
Singapore	Dollar	0.495150	0.589971	33.0531
Australia	Dollar	0.639596	0.762079	42.6955
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.226321	2.652661	148.6153
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223700	0.266539	14.9328
Brunei	Dollar	0.493693	0.588235	32.9559
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020386	0.024290	1.3608
UAE	Dirham	0.228574	0.272346	15.2582
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.191500	66.7538
Argentina	Peso	0.288660	0.343938	19.2691
Brazil	Real	0.375836	0.447808	25.0884
Denmark	Kroner	0.134023	0.159688	8.9465
India	Rupee	0.019074	0.022727	1.2733
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222679	0.265322	14.8647
Mexico	New Peso	0.078335	0.093336	5.2291
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580013	0.691085	38.7180
Norway	Kroner	0.127017	0.151341	8.4789
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014063	0.016756	0.9388
South Africa	Rand	0.130681	0.155707	8.7235
Korea	Won	0.000804	0.000958	0.0537
Sweden	Kroner	0.107490	0.128074	7.1753
Syria	Pound	0.016168	0.019264	1.0793
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025286	0.030128	1.6879
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0261



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In Loving Memory

On the Fourth Death Anniversary of

Dame Edita Dadia Tolentino

PRO ECLESIA ET PONTIFICE
September 20, 1927 – October 5, 2001

Beloved wife of the late Papal Knight Commander
HILARION "LARRY" C. TOLENTINO†

Her beloved daughter *MARY ANNE* requests relatives, friends, and the pious readers to continue praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

A Mass will be offered today, October 5 on her resting place at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

In Loving Memory
on the
FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

Salud S. Tesoro

Holy Mass will be offered on Friday, October 7, 2005, at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, 980 Park Avenue, New York, USA at 12:10 p.m.

And at the following churches on Thursday, October 6, 2005:

Immaculate Conception Parish Church *Cubao, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 a.m.
Tesoro's Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park *Parañaque City*	8:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church *Makinabang, Baliwag, Bulacan*	6:30 p.m.

Alipio C. Reyes, Sr.

of Naic, Cavite

Died in the Grace of our Lord and peacefully joined his Creator on September 30, 2005 at the age of 97.

His bereaved wife **Trinidad Paman Reyes** (+), children and spouses: **Zenaida & Alfredo; Alipio Jr. & Aurora; Reynaldo & Gloria; Cesar & Ann; Bayani & Ofelia; Jose Divino & Ligaya; Victorio (+) & Lydia (+), Tacia; Angelito & Estelita ; Augusto & Ligaya; Ding & Susan.**

His grandchildren and great grandchildren; nephews & nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence in Balsahan Street, Naic, Cavite.

Interment will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Nazarene Eternal Garden after the 3:00 pm Mass at the Diocesan Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Parish.

ADRIAN C. AMORSOLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 2, 2005 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Presen Nabong**; children **Pocholo, Corito** and **Jun; Chito** and **Aini**, and grandchildren, parents **Fernando†** and **Salud Amorsolo†**; stepmother **Maria C. Amorsolo†**; brothers, **Fernando Jr.†**, **Delfin**, **Milo†**; sisters, **Virginia†**, **Gracia†**, **Chita**, **Lina**, **Helen**, **Luz**, **Christy**, **Sylvia**, **Rosie** and **Emma** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc. Libertad St., Pasay City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Friday, October 7, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc.

LUZ GARCIA GUEVARA

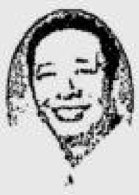
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 4, 2005.

She is survived by her daughter **Ma. Socorro "Corito" Guevara**, granddaughter, **Ma. Carmela "Maricar" Guevara**, sister, **Pacita "Pat" Guevara vda. de Asis** as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel Premier 1, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, October 7, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass in Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

***On his 60th Birthday* we lovingly remember and honor our dearest Daddy, who we miss with all our hearts...**



JULIAN "JUN" FROILAN T. UY, JR.

(October 5, 1945 - July 22, 2002)

On this day we salute and thank our Daddy for all the love and good memories he has left us. For the lives that he has touched and the minds he has inspired, he lives on in our hearts and shall never die. We miss you so much and love you forevermore, Daddy!

"I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

VICTORIANO A. VILLANUEVA

Former President and Chairman of the Board, Rural Bank of Amadeo, Cavite
Former President, Rural Bank of Aurora, Quezon

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on 2 October 2005 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **NENA LIBONGCO**; children **MARIVIC & SONNY**, **EUGENE & GINA**, **SUSAN & CHRISTOPHER** and **FERDIE**; grandchildren **CHEYENNE & MAGI**, **JAMÊ**, **BIANCA & BENJIE**, **KISSA** and **INA**, **KATRINA** and **ARIANNA**, **ISABEL**, **ALEXANDRA** and **HARRISON**; great grandchildren **GABRIEL** and **NATHANIEL**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the San Mateo Cemetery on Sunday, 9 October 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Arlington.

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" ***Matthew 11:30***

ROLANDO SALUD GUIEB

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 2, 2005 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Perla**; children **Francis Dennis & Chat**; **Catherine**; **Bernard & Joyce**; grandchildren **Cheska**, **Veronica & Shine**; brothers & sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Acacia Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park-Marikina City after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

Rosario M. Miranda

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 29, 2005 at the age of 93

and

Ma. Loreta M. David

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 30, 2005 at the age of 72.

Their remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows.

FRANCISCO S. SUMULONG, SR.

"KOMONG"

Dec. 3, 1918 – Oct. 5, 2004

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MASS OFFERING – OCTOBER 5, 2005

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE, ANTIPOLO CATHEDRAL, ANTIPOLO CITY	8:00 A.M.
CHRIST THE KING, GREEN MEADOWS, QUEZON CITY	ALL MASSES
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, FORBES PARK, MAKATI CITY	6:00 P.M.

Relatives, friends and readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of Komong's soul.

JOSEFINA "Fanny" ACOSTA NAPALIT

(August 27, 1922 - October 3, 2005)

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 83.

Her beloved husband Ramon; children and in-laws, Susan and Dandy Calvez, Eleanor and Glen Acosta, Carolyn, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel D, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City on Sunday, October 9, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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PCP sets midyear confab in Davao

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (PCP) will hold its 17th Midyear Convention on October 12-14 at the Central Bank Convention Hall, Davao City. Hosted by the PCP Southern Mindanao Chapter, the convention will have for its theme "Soaring Towards Greater Heights in Internal Medicine" and will feature scientific sessions and sports activities (golf, badminton). For details please contact Cristy, Telefax (082) 224 0327 or 0920 2107678

INSULAR LIFE

INSULAR LIFE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS MEET WITH INSULAR LIFE EXECUTIVES

Nineteen students from the Technological University of the Philippines-Taguig recently paid a visit to Insular Life Chair and CEO Vicente R. Ayllon and Insular Life president and COO Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco. Ten of the TUP students comprise the new batch of the freshmen scholars of the Insular Life Foundation (ILF) Technician Scholarship Program for SY 2005-2006. The other nine are the sophomore scholars. The Insular Life Technician Scholarship Program is now on its 21st year of providing free tuition, books, and allowance to poor but deserving students enrolled at TUP. Sharing a smile with them are (seated in front, from left) Leila Ramos, TUP guidance counselor; Vicente R. Ayllon, Insular Life CEO; Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco, INsular Life president; Professor Jaime M. Pallasigui, TUP Student Affairs head; Ana Maria R. Soriano, ILF administrator.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes ...
no more death or mourning or crying or pain ..."

Alfonso Dizon Cruz

August 1, 1918 - October 3, 2005

His family enjoins everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His wife
Consuelo Ventura Cruz (+).
His children
Aurora "Monina" and Leslie Moreno,
Cielo and Ambassador Amable "King" Aguiluz V,
Olympia "Bootsie" and Oscar "Oka" Violago,
Victor "Boy" Cruz (+), Consuelo "Honey" and Carlos Tan,
Edgardo and Aida, Perla and Paul Conejos.
His grandchildren
Amable IX "Miguel" and Christine, Anthony Jude "AJ,"
Michico and Kent, Ma. Lourdes "Malou" and Ryan, Paula and Louie,
Corinna (+), Arthur "Bogs," Angela "Jinggay," Patricia and Mike,
Mary Margaret "Princess," Karmeena, Ma. Clara "Bem," Alexandra,
Andrea, Alfonsa, Martin, Michael, Gemma, Madonna, Victoria.
His great-grandchildren
Camy, Nikolai, Victoria, Marty,
Jonas, Enzo, Santi, Manu, Mique and Isaac.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Church,
Greenmeadows, Quezon City.
Interment will be on October 8, 2005, Saturday,
after the 9:00 am Mass
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

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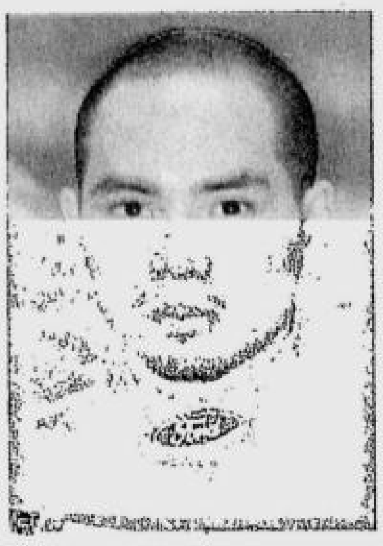
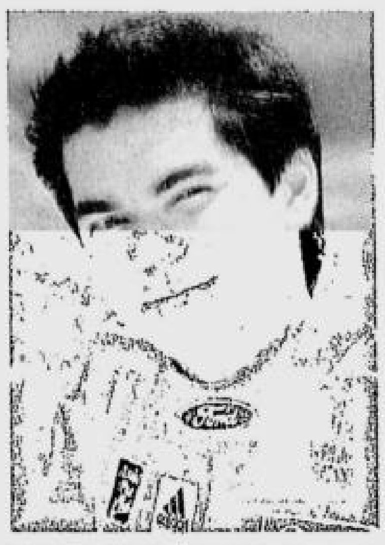

RUFINO


BOREN

AGOJO

Drag-racing engineer tops novice race

By Tessa R. Salazar

A 32-YEAR-OLD ENGINEER topped the Oct. 2 opening of the Tuason Racing School-Ford Lynx Cup Novice Series 2005.

Francisco Alberto Blanco, 32, who participated in all-motor drag racing in Colombia for six years and in an all-wheel-drive turbo drag race in the United States, topped the first and third of three races of the opening.

Blanco, the chief engineer and technical consultant of Auto Plus and a columnist of Top Gear Philippines magazine, placed second during race two and clocked in the fastest lap at 1:52.019 in lap 6 of race one, and 1:51.499 in Lap 7 of race three.

The TRS-Ford Lynx Cup Novice Series, now on its third year, will have six more races over two weekends ending in the last week of November.

Youngest competitor

The youngest competitor on the grid, Filipino-Italian Matteo Feman Guidicelli, 15, placed second to Blanco on the first race and then topped the second race.

The lead changed four times between Blanco and Guidicelli during the first race. In the second race, Guidicelli shot up from third to first at the start. It was also during the second race that Blanco and Guidicelli swapped the lead twice.

Guidicelli's victory was short-lived, however, as the commercial model-racer was edged out by Ken Eero Boren in race three for the second spot and Vic Joseph Nodalo for the third spot.

Fastest lap

Swedish-born Canadian Boren also recorded the fastest lap during the second race at 1:52.438 in Lap 4. Boren is the 21-year-old brother of Pia, a Ford Lynx Cup novice veteran and winner of the recent Ford Lynx Cup Advanced Series.

Nodalo is the winner of this year's Top Driver Challenge, which includes an all-expense-paid race for the series courtesy of TRS. VJ Nodalo is the son of former National Rally champion Paeng Nodalo.

Guidicelli's racing credentials include the 2004 Philippine Karter of the Year, 26th overall in the 2004 European Karting Championship and first runner-up in the Junior ICA class of the Asian Karting Championship.

Boren, a college sophomore at De la Salle Canlubang, developed his enthusiasm by playing computer games and watching his sister zip around the racetrack.

Talented hopefuls

Other talented hopefuls are waiting for just the right chance to land at pole position in this series. Names to watch out for are Norman R. Agojo, 31; Aaron Ang Uy, 21; Jiffy Chua, 32; and Jinno Rufino, 27.

Agojo, president of the Agojo Batangas Corp., is racing for the first time. Uy, an entrepreneur, is also having his first taste of the racing circuit.

Chua, an accounts manager of Mayon Construction Supply, switched on his TV set one day and caught the coverage of the Ford Lynx Cup at the Batangas Racing Circuit. That inspired him to be a participant in the races.

Rufino, a familiar face on Studio 23's "Hotwire" and Manual magazine, just wanted to experience racing. He was off the pace all weekend, but shed five seconds off his time during the third race to become the most improved driver of the race.

For JP Tuason, the big boss of the Ford Lynx Cup, the diversity of the racers in this year's Novice Series proves that motorsports cuts across a wide spectrum of audiences. And if looks, driving skills, celebrity status, or mere curiosity drives some of the participants to excel, JP and his team at the Tuason Racing School can expect an interesting ride this year, on and off the track.

Norkis opens ₱200-M Legacy plant

By Charles E. Buban

NORKIS GROUP FOUNDER and chair Norberto Quisumbing Jr. recently joined more than a thousand employees and guests at a launch event marking the start of full-scale production of the company's latest 660cc vehicle model at its new P200-million assembly plant in Compostela, Cebu.

AT THE HEART of a Legacy vehicle is this remanufactured and reconditioned 660cc engine imported from Japan.

With the capacity to produce 1,200 to 1,440 units a year, the facility will build the two-seater Legacy First, four-seater Legacy Double-Cab and the small business-oriented Legacy Van, which since the three models' launch in April last year has already sold close to a thousand units.

"The new Compostela plant is set to play a significant role in Norkis' future as the Legacy and future vehicles to be built here will enable more and more Filipinos to own an affordable yet decent and dependable car," says Quisumbing.

Major milestone

He adds that Norkis' investment in the facility is significant not only from the perspective of developing its four-wheeled vehicle product lineup (since Norkis also markets Yamaha brand of motorcycles).

"This plant is a major milestone for Norkis to strengthen its presence in the small-engine-displacement vehicle market," says Quisumbing.

In 1993, Norkis became the first company to heed the government's call to assemble vehicles with smaller displacement as part of its campaign to lessen the country's fuel consumption and clean the air.

Following the success of Multicab (over 200,000 units now running nationwide), Norkis decided to follow it up with a much shorter variant to tap buyers looking for a more personal means of transport.

"Since the Legacy's launch in April last year, some 1,000 units have been sold. With the Multicab and now the Legacy, Norkis has answered the government's call for an affordable and fuel-efficient vehicle models," explains Buen Jose Delfin, group managing head of Porta Coeli Industrial Corp., a subsidiary of Norkis, which is in charge of manufacturing the Multicab and Legacy brands of vehicles.

5,300 square meters

Norkis' 5,300-sq-m new plant (located within the 150-hectare Norkis complex) is designed with a focus on scalability and speedy, future expansion—with 500 personnel currently employed, the facility is set to hire 500 more once its full capacity of 3,600 to 6,000 units a year is reached in three to five years.

"You see, we are also helping the local economy—with more and more people around the country being able to afford the Legacy, this company will also be able to hire more people and provide them job security," explains Delfin.

CKD components

The plant's managing head for factory operations, Marcial Godornes, explains the imported used vehicle from Japan arrive at the facility as completely knocked down (CKD) components.

"To apply the Norkis' 5R manufacturing process—that is reconditioning, rebuilding, remanufacturing, reengineering and reinventing—we rely on local suppliers (Legacy utilizes up to 40 percent local components), although we also order from Japan some of the more important replacement parts. For example, we don't recycle brake pads and lining as they are vital for the safety of our finished product)," reveals Godornes.

He explains that the Legacy is rebuilt from slightly used 660cc, 3-cylinder Suzuki or Daihatsu vehicles with mileage ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 km.

"To ensure the vehicles that will be shipped here comply with our requirements, we have our own technicians brought (for 90 to 100 days at a time) to Japan to check, buy and collect these vehicles," says Norkis VP for research and development Rodrigo Enriquez.

Says Delfin: "In a way, the Legacy reaches our buyers as an almost brand-new vehicle. With the after-sales support (spare parts and repair), which we are providing, plus the fact that we are registered with the Bureau of Trade and Investments set us apart from the so-called 'chop-chop' vehicles or those imported secondhand vehicles."

WITH THE NEW PLANT, Norkis expects new models to follow the Legacy Double Cab and Legacy Van soon.

Jazz owners join 53-km fuel economy run

By Tessa R. Salazar

AMID THE "FUEL ECONOMY WAR" BETWEEN two rival oil companies, Honda set out on a fuel economy run Sept. 10 from the Petron station in South Luzon Expressway to another Petron station at the Star Tollway in Lipa, Batangas—a total distance of 53 km.

Invited participants were Honda Jazz owners and members of the motoring media.

Honda Jazz owners making up 19 customer teams and seven media teams (14 motoring writers) competed in the first of a four-leg series.

Results

At the end of the run, some of the results that came out even exceeded the performance of veteran rallye driver and master fuel miser Pocholo Ramirez and celebrity companion Eppy Quizon in that controversial Petron TV ad. Some of the computed readings as per Honda's measurement reached up to 32 km per liter, with an Automobile Association Philippines representative even running the entire distance on just one liter of Petron Xtra unleaded gas.

All of the drivers with the most fuel-efficient results used the 1.3-liter manual transmission Jazz but they did not reveal their techniques.

This writer, who joined the ecorun with a 1.3-liter Jazz automatic transmission, attempted to duplicate Ramirez's feat. Her companion-navigator, however, was no lean Eppy. Instead, it was 195-pound motoring writer Jude Morte of autoindustriya.combined with the writer's 110-pound frame, this tandem, at 305 pounds, wasn't traveling light for sure compared to the others that averaged around 250 pounds.

Instructions

Organizers from Honda gave out instructions at the meeting point at McDonald's at The Fort in Makati: After that, it was off to Petron SLEX to fill up the tanks, seal the fuel lids, hood, trunk and air-conditioning fan dials to keep the playing field level, as it were.

Aside from these controls, however, it was every team for themselves. This team did everything legal to save on fuel and cancel out the "excess" weight the poor Jazz was lugging. These included inflating the tires to above normal levels (less tires making contact with the road, less friction, less work on the engine, right?), making Morte sit at the back for a more even weight distribution, etc.

This team agreed that to achieve minimum travel distance, lane shifts would be discouraged. Brakes would have to be applied sparingly, and acceleration would have to be as gradual as possible, as if eggs were placed under the brake and gas pedals. Speeds would not exceed 80 kph, as well

But then, we overanalyzed the situation, and eventually traffic caught up with us. Our car left Petron SLEX about 10 a.m., way behind all the other participants. At this time, traffic at the tollgates was almost at a standstill, which made us burn fuel and not move at the same time—a losing combination, for sure. In the end, however, our efforts fell way short of the competition.

The Jazz CVT category winner turned out to be Leovin de Ramos with a reading of 32.7160 km/li.

Only this much De Ramos revealed: his team drove at a maximum speed of 70 kph while keeping the tachometer between 2,000 and 2,500. He admitted that he didn't know much about cars, much less running on economy, since his Jazz CVT was his first car.

For the manual transmission category, William Catacutan proved the miser king with a 30.6818 km/liter reading. For the media category, Manila Bulletin's Aris Ilagan and Philippine Star's Raymond Young registered 29.421 km/liter using the 1.3 Honda City CVT while Sunshine TV's Matt Mallari and Dianne Diwa posted a fuel mileage of 30 km/liter driving the 1.3 Honda Jazz CVT.

Treats, rewards

All participants were treated to lunch at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club at the end of the run. Each winner was rewarded P5,000 in cash and P5,000 worth of Petron gasoline, including a free Honda Hydrophilic Paint job. The next legs are scheduled on Nov. 12, 2005, Jan. 14 and 28, 2006.

And how did our team fare? Suffice to say we were the "comic relief" for the group for this run. While everyone else was refilling their tanks with only 1.7 or 1.9 liters of fuel, this tandem guzzled 3.7 liters, for a miserable run of only 14.32 km per liter.

Well, at least Morte had a very filling lunch at Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club. Everyone and everything (including our poor, overworked Jazz) had their just desserts.

14th Motorshow caps off with Best in Show annual awards

THE 14TH MOTORSHOW INTERnational gathered together car lovers and enthusiasts in a successful show held at the Forum, Philippine International Convention Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco), Motorshow presented the most-coveted Best in Show Annual Awards. Categories include Best in Stock, Modified (light), SUV, Military, Race/Rally, Sports, Vintage/Classic.

First prizes went to the 1971 Beetle Convertible owned by Doy Bondoc of Volkswagen Club of the Philippines (Best in Stock); 1970 Mini of Kit Isip (Best in Modified); and 1998 Nissan Terrano by Egbert Rodriguez (Best in SUV).

Other first prizes were 2000 General Hummer of Martin Paz by Alana Motors Corp.(Best in Military); 1967 Mini Austin Cooper Rally Car of Solomon Picache of the Mini Car Club of the Phils. (Best in Race/Rally); 1962 Triumph of Jorge Ramos of the British Roadster Club and Ford Cabriolet Model A 1929 +30 of Ronald Reidenbach of the Vintage Car Club of the Philippines (Best in Vintage/Classic).

Special awards

Among the special awards is Best in Wheels which went to Frederick de Guzman by Normanworks Custom Paint Shop. Other special awards are Best Car Graphics—1996 Honda Civic of Steven Yu by Normanworks Custom Paint Shop; Best in Sounds—1998 Nissan Terrano of Egbert Rodriguez; Best Engine—1971 Beetle Convertible of Doy Bondoc; Best in Paint—1965 Mustang GT Convertible of Roger Ong by Alex Car Restoration Service; and Auto Display—1962 Triumph.

Bagging the most coveted Best in Show Award is Ronald Reidenbach's Ford—Cabriolet (Model A-1929 +30), which bested all the others in this annual competition.

Other awards also given was the People's Choice Awards which was voted through balloting by the Motorshow visitors. The award went to Steven Yu's 1996 Honda Civic. The Texter's Choice Award, which was voted through texting, hailed CC Castro's 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe Convertible as the first-ever winner of the award.

Scale-model competition

Motorshow in Scale, a competition spearheaded by the organizers of Motorshow International Manila with the IPMS-Philippines (International Plastic Modelers Society) and DCPH (Diecast Car Club of the Philippines) held its National Scale Model Festival, exhibits and swap meets.

Static miniature replicas of cars, trucks, jeeps and motorcycles were exhibited and vied in different categories, both for straight-out-of-the-box models and modified or converted models.

Winners in the stiff competition were Best Automobile (Curbside), Mercedes-Benz E320 of Arnel Tobias; Best Automobile (Open), Acura Integra Type R of Roan Bella; Best Motorcycle, Honda Super 400 of Richard Castro; Best Rotary Wing, Little Bird of Gregory Yan; Best Figure, Alien III of Luis Dee.

The first prizes were bagged by the Am track of Jericho Reyes in the Military Combat Vehicle Category, Supermarine Spitfire Mk.V of Martin Monsod in the Fixed Wing Aircraft Category, Breakfast in Winter by Giovanni Falague under the Diorama category.

In the Die-Cast Concours, Level 1 category winners include the Ralliart Evo 7 of Ritchie Alava, while Level 2 category went to the Herbie of Ray Andrew Rodiguez and Level 3 category was given to the Peterbilt Tractor of Angelo de Vera who all brought home the top prize.

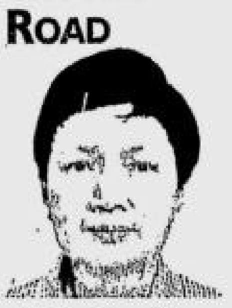
Major awards

Major awards include Best in Presentation, Porsche 211 Turbo of Arnel Tobias; Best Collection, '63 Corvette of Jimmy Maramag, which also bagged the Best in Show Award.

Special awards exclusive for cars and motorcycles were also given. The Best in Paint Job went to the Mercedes Benz by Arnel Tobias, Best in Engine, Honda Integra by Roan Bella; Best Underchassis, Porsche 911 GT 2 by Roan Bella; and Best Interior, Acura Integra by Roan Bella.

Ford sharpens its Focus

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR FORD Group Philippines to bring to market its award-winning compact car, but when it did so recently it came up with a sharper, totally redesigned second generation Focus. Primed to compete with the Toyota Altis 1.8 G, Chevrolet Optra 1.8 LT, Nissan Sentra 180 GT and Mitsubishi Lancer MX Limited, the 2005 Focus Ghia offers something the others don't have: European class and German engineering.

The Euro flair starts with revised styling featuring a bull-nose front end, flared wheel arches, a wider track and lower body posture that give the Focus a sporty, muscular look slightly similar to but more refined in a "corporate" sort of way than the Mazda3's.

Euro influence

Inside the passenger cabin, the European influence is obvious. Leather seats, tilt and telescopic adjustable steering wheel, 6-way adjustable power driver seat, dual aircon controls with rear air vents, trip/fuel computer, six CD in-dash stereo with five speakers, steering column-mounted controls and audio jack, soft touch instrument panel, sunglasses holder and cupholders are standard. Compared to the first Focus, the 2005 model is bigger and offers more head and leg room for five including driver. Air vents shaped like the oval Ford insignia add a clever touch

Built on the same platform as the Volvo S40/V50 (Volvo is one of the premium brands owned by Ford), the Focus has a new chassis with the improved Control Blade independent rear suspension. A technological innovation that was developed solely for the Focus seven years ago, Control Blade rear suspension is responsible for the sports car-like agility and precise handling that the Focus has become famous for.

THE SPORTY yet corporate look of the '05 Focus

Chassis

The chassis is so finely tuned and the body shell so rigid that driving the Focus is like driving a high-end German sports compact. You can feel the car's strength and stability especially when caroming through twisties at high speed. And you can savor its superlative, quiet riding comfort with almost no NVH (noise, vibration and harshness).

Sure stopping power is provided by larger diameter brakes disc brakes on all four 16-inch alloy wheels with ABS and electronic brake force distribution. Safety-conscious drivers will be reassured not only by the dual airbags, ABS and EBD, collapsible steering column and pedals, remote keyless entry, electronic antitheft system, side-impact door beams, front and rear fog lamps but also by the knowledge that the high-strength steel structure of the 2005 Focus and its energy-absorbing crush zones passed rigorous crash performance tests at the Volvo Safety Center in Sweden.

This means that the Focus exceeds the legislated crash performance standards of all European countries and is expected to excel in independent testing such as the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile's (FIA) Euro-NCAP. No wonder Consumer Reports gave the Focus its "Recommended" rating.

1.8 Ghia

The Focus currently available here is the locally assembled (for export and domestic markets) Ghia four-door sedan powered by the peppy 1.8-liter, 16-valve, DOHC 4-cylinder Duratec engine with Swirl Control Valve Induction System delivering 123 hp/6,000 rpm and max torque of 165 Nm /4,000 rpm. Only a 4-speed electronic automatic transmission with sequential sport shift is available. Ford claims that the 1.8 Duratec is as fuel-thrifty as a 1.6-liter engine, but this should be proven by an economy run compared with 1.6-liter cars.

In Europe, the base engine of the Focus is the 2.0-liter twin-cam Duratec four capable of 136 bhp/4,000 rpm with the more powerful 151-bhp 2.3-liter DOHC engine (from Mazda?) as an option. The scuttlebutt is that before the year ends, Ford Philippines will produce the 2.0-liter Focus—perhaps in hatchback form.

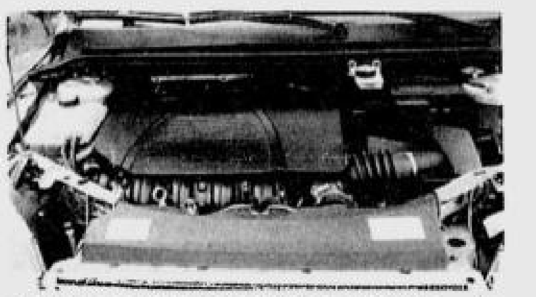
Whatever, the four-door sedan is being marketed as a mainstream family car as well as a sports compact perfect for the upscale junior exec/family man who is a motor sport enthusiast at heart. Bottom line, the P919,000 Focus is an athletic yet civilized and intelligently designed European car that is a joy to drive—more so, perhaps, when it is fitted with a lustier 2.0-liter powerplant.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't miss heaven for the world.

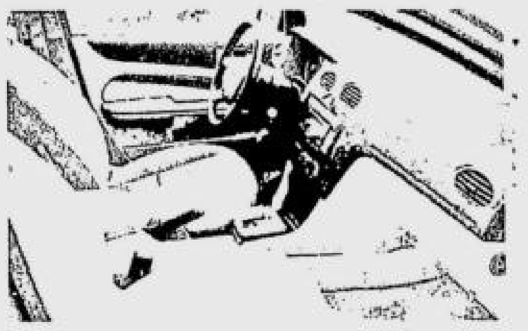
* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



THE 1.8 LITER, DOHC, 123-hp Duratec engine.

EURO INFLUENCE in the Focus cockpit.



EURO INFLUENCE in the Focus cabin.

The bright amid the bleak

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

IT IS SO EASY TO GET CAUGHT up in all the miserable news these days. Fuel, despite the best efforts of both the government and petroleum companies, continues its march toward the P40 per liter barrier. The bitter pill of EVAT, a necessary treatment for our country's fiscal woes, hangs in the balance because of a floundering political situation. Let's not even begin to talk about all the usual suspects jockeying for position, waiting for the rug to get pulled from under the administration's feet. All this makes one want to take a very, very long drive.

Despite the drab and dreary cloud that is hovering above most things at the moment, one would be hard pressed not to notice that it is actually a great time to be in the market for a new car. As an enthusiast, it is wonderful to see that the standard, market-acceptable vehicle formula is changing and automobiles sold in the Philippines are beginning to closely resemble those purveyed in larger, more sophisticated markets. Two examples of this paradigm shift can already been seen in showrooms—a vanguard of the types of vehicles that will be tomorrow's mainstream.

Return of the hatchback

The return of the hatchback has been sealed with the release of the 1.5-liter Jazz. Visually akin to the kitted 1.3-liter version, the VTEC hatch serves an altogether different purpose—one of additional energy and pace in a package that is just as physically practical. Whatever gripes have been made with the small engine are forgotten when punching the new 1.5-liter VTEC powerplant.

Sacrifices must be made with regard to fuel efficiency, as an aggressively driven Jazz VTEC does not understand the term "fuel crisis" and will use gasoline accordingly. At least now Honda has two solutions in a single platform—one, fun and the other, frugal. If you must, the CVT transmission seems better sorted than the one previously equipped on the 1.5-liter City VTEC, but why not go with a manual instead? Live a little.

Suzuki's Swift hatchback plays along the same lines as the new "warm" Honda. Displacement is in the neighborhood of 1500cc and it also comes with some iteration of variable valve timing. The huge plus for the Swift is its striking styling; black window pillars and flared body panels will most likely ensure that looks alone might sell this car. The quality of the interior needs to be mentioned also, as it is rather classy and points to the European target market that it is designed for.

A drive will be needed to confirm if any of the Swift's competition heritage has been passed on. A plethora of available parts made by in-house speed brand Suzuki Sport is advertised on the Internet, pointing to the fact that this car was designed for more than just mere transport. Largest liability is the lack of a manual transmission and the use of a conventional four speed auto box. Interior space is not too great either, but you are not going to buy this car for the number of *balikbayan* (returning Filipinos) boxes it can carry.

It is not far from the imagination that should the Jazz and Swift do well, other players will bring similar platforms into play. Toyota has announced in Europe a new Yaris, one that is slightly larger and more able than the Echo that was sold in the Philippine market. Nissan's Micra has a strong following in both the Japanese domestic market and on the European continent. This begs the question why it has not been drafted to fulfill Nissan's supermini role in the Philippines?

New brands being hatched

The anticipation does not end with the cars themselves. If my sources are right, then we're in for some real surprises. Adding to the day's excitement is that fact that the industry's rumor mills have been whirling in overdrive as of late. This is more probably a sign of buzzing activity than professional apprehension. New brands are supposedly being hatched as we speak.

Depending on whom you are pumping for information, anywhere from two to three Japanese luxury and performance brands are supposedly inbound. The most obvious and logical possibilities are Lexus, Infiniti and Acura as these are backed by the presence of Toyota, Nissan and Honda, respectively.

This "luxury talk" all started when the issue of "favorable" tax breaks for Japanese products broke cover—and then suspiciously went dormant as the tax issue got a little heated. Some informants were already naming key personnel in the lineups of some of the said brands. Contacts have suggested that a Subaru return may also be in the works but failed to substantiate any truth to a Mitsubishi-Ralliart operation opening its doors to the Philippine public. Whatever the outcome of such speculation, all I can say is that diversity in the market is more than welcome.

Any one of these brands would certainly spice up our country's "trafficscape" but given the shaky nature of our society, one has to ask if the timing is right? Then again, our country's situation has not changed in 20 years. Now would be a good a time as any.

Petron 'peroration'

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE REACTIONS WERE PRACTICALLY ALL the same.

"Unbelievable" was the word they used.

I'm referring to the wonders claimed by Petron Xtra Unleaded that I mentioned here two columns ago.

The claims were contained in broadcast and print ads, saying Petron Xtra Unleaded can run 1,114 kilometers on a full tank from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte to Casiguran, Sorsogon. With the respected Pocholo Ramirez as one of the main characters in the ad, it was said that the drive-test was certified by the Automobile Association Philippines and the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi).

I also said in that column that I was seriously considering switching from Shell (over the objections of Mr. Ed Mapa, of course) to Petron Xtra Unleaded because I had always adhered to "truth in advertising."

With the rising cost of gasoline and other oil by-products, who wouldn't if we take into account the savings one could derive from the advertised wonders of the Petron Xtra Unleaded?

Besides, I've been using unleaded fuel for maybe 20 years now. I am a card-carrying environmentalist.

However, I have received confidential information that the National Advertising Board has ordered the Petron ads withdrawn. The decision came following complaints from not only the major sectors of the oil industry but also from the public airing their concerns over the "truthfulness" of the ads.

I have the documents regarding the AdBoard decision, which contained the two specific dates this October for the withdrawal of the ads.

Fuel consumption actually varies.

A major factor is a driver's driving habits.

The make of a car is another major factor.

The condition of a car is yet another major factor.

Tires, the number of passengers and the weight of the luggage in the trunk also contribute to the overall fuel consumption of a vehicle.

While Petron could be suffering from the AdBoard decision by now, I hope this snafu would have a happy ending.

With the rising fuel prices becoming almost a weekly nightmare, the nation can't afford another row to add fuel to the fire, so to speak—like a head-on collision among the oil giants over which fuel is best for your car?

That's the last thing I would like to see.

* * *

CAR PLATES. To those asking me where to apply for the commemorative car plates of the SEA Games in Manila starting in November, please get in touch with the Philsoc at the PCCI, Cultural Center Complex in Manila. Look for such nice guys like Butch Tuason, Richie Garcia and Freddie Mendoza. They will gladly assist you.

* * *

HSBC & BMW GOLF. HSBC, whose Jaguar promotion has caught on fire, will host a big golf event on Friday, Oct. 7, at Tagaytay Midlands with fabulous prizes at stake, including a trip to China where a tournament featuring Tiger Woods is a major prize. HSBC big boss Warner Manning has assured guests of an unforgettable tournament at Midlands... And, yes, on Monday, Oct. 10, it's BMW's Jose R. Alvarez Jr.'s turn to stage his Prestige Time Cup at the Manila Golf Club. In his letter of invite, Mr. Alvarez said: "This golf tournament offers current owners of select luxury watch brands like Bulgari, Breguet, Cartier, Franck Muller and Patek Philippe, to participate in the 2005 Prestige Time Cup and get a chance to win exciting prizes." I do not have any of those but nonetheless, Ms Maricar C. Parco has assured me I could still win "an exciting prize you will never forget." Wow!

* * *

QUOTE ME. In Bacolod, traffic is smooth and people keep on smiling—thanks mainly to Mayor Leonardia, the city's No. 1 smile advocate.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Going the distance with Petron Xtra Unleaded

RACING LEGEND POCHOLO RAMIREZ AND his son Louis managed to travel over a thousand kilometers on a single full tank of fuel in the recently concluded Petron Extra Unleaded economy run from March 31 to April 1.

Two cars were loaded to the brim with Petron Xtra Unleaded Gasoline (a total of 42 liters). The tanks were then sealed and signed by the drivers and representatives from the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), who witnessed and certified the event that crossed the length of Luzon.

The Ramirezes took off from the Petron station just outside Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, for the first leg of the two-day run. They passed through the northern half of Luzon, across Ilocos, La Union, Pangasinan and Tarlac, stopping only in San Fernando, Pampanga, for a break. The cars covered 494 km, so far.

The second and final leg passed through Metro Manila and proceeded to southern Luzon. Louis made it to Barangay Tabontabon in Daraga, Albay, after logging 1,048.8 km before his car shuddered to a halt. The other vehicle driven by Pocholo made it even further. His car finally ran out of gas in Casiguran, Sorsogon, after covering an astounding total distance of 1,113.9 km.

Pocholo made it clear that he and his son were merely there as test drivers for Petron's little "experiment."

What went on

Each test car was accompanied by two other cars, one at the lead, and another at the tail. Eagle eyes were watching the pair the whole time. Father and son couldn't communicate either as no on-board radios were allowed in their cars.

The pair left Pagudpod at 11:20 p.m. and arrived in San Fernando, Pampanga at 9:20 a.m. This test was to prove how efficient Xtra Unleaded is under real-world driving conditions, and all of us know that traffic is the bane of every Filipino motorist, and at about that time it was starting to build up.

The test was primarily to see how well Xtra Unleaded performs, but for Pocholo and Louis it was also a chance to sharpen their skills in squeezing as much mileage as they could from one full tank of gasoline. They didn't put the pedal to the metal as they would during a race, as some skeptics assumed.

Keeping fuel consumption down

"We averaged about 60 to 70 kph during the whole trip, which was a bit slow, but I wanted to keep the engine running at about 2,000 rpm, more or less," says Pocholo. "It was hard," adds Louis, "to drive so slow the whole time, but we had to get as much mileage as we could, and driving at that efficient speed was the best way."

They decided to leave their air-conditioners off to keep fuel consumption down, but they kept their windows open.

Pocholo has been racing for 42 years and is widely respected among his peers in the Philippine racing community. Not only did he compete during his early days at the Macau Grand Prix, driving saloon cars to the Formula Atlantics.

Louis only started racing in 1996, the last of the Ramirez brothers to be bitten by the racing bug, but father and son's experience on the track earned them the respect of their peers.

What was Pocholo's "secret" this time around? "I would say that the most important thing is anticipation," he replies. "You have to read the traffic ahead so that you can gauge where to position the car, what lane is moving faster, all to preserve momentum. The less you use your brakes, the better, but you can't quite do that as you would be slamming into everybody."

Louis adds, "The less dramatic your transition from braking to accelerating, the better. If you are smoother at it, you will get better mileage. You won't save gas by driving fast and slamming your brakes at the last minute. Jack rabbit starts are a no-no if you are trying to save on gas."

"Sometimes you can tell from the sound of your engine if you are burning more gas," they both add enthusiastically. "We try to keep the rpms down, but not too low either. The objective is to drive at a higher gear and keep it there; but the engine has to be running at the proper rpm as well."

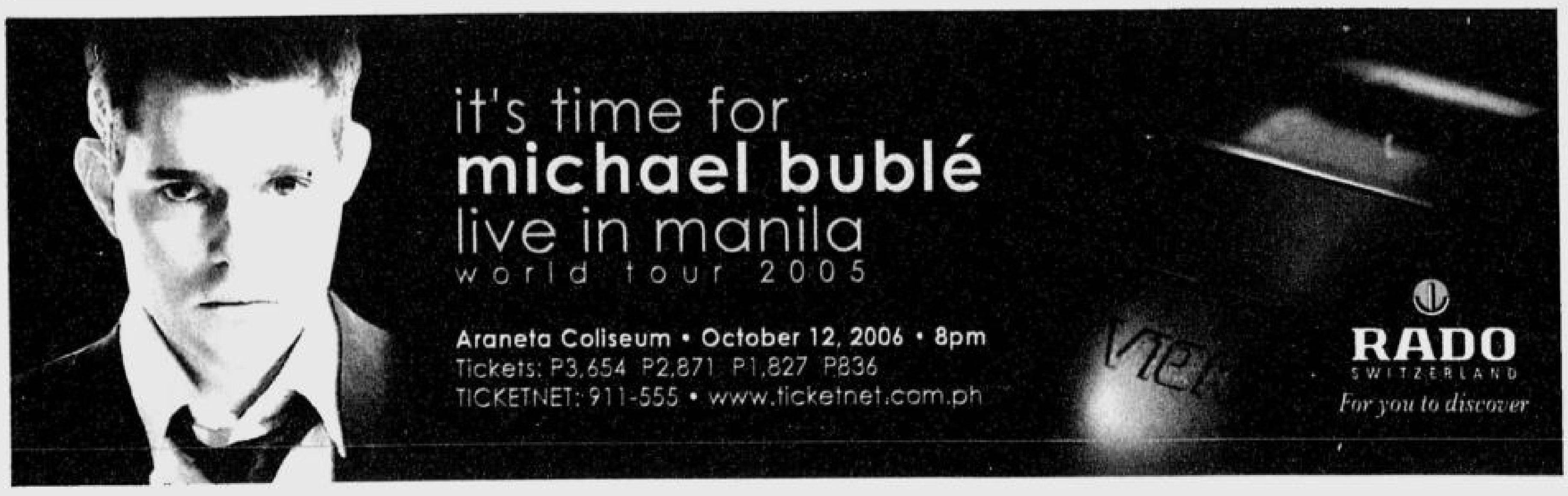
Other factors

Other factors, including using the recommended tire pressure help reduce fuel consumption. But there are also plenty of myths that are dangerous if followed. "Don't shut your engine while going downhill as this is extremely dangerous," warns Pocholo. "The car's hydraulic systems shut down and it will be difficult to control the vehicle. Plus, the steering wheel antitheft mechanism might lock up."

Apart from the formulation of Petron's Xtra Unleaded gasoline, Pocholo has this to say: "I stayed focused and I concentrated on the task at hand. I thought it was going to be a real punishment, driving the distance going 60 to 70 kph to stay at 2,000 rpm... I was constantly thinking about what I was doing, concentrating the whole way so that I could get as far as I could on one full tank."

Overall it was an enjoyable drive for Pocholo. Father and son were all smiles, and Louis was quick to add, "I finally saw the Mayon Volcano, and I probably wouldn't have gone that far if not with Petron's Xtra Unleaded gasoline."

BUSINESS



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Keppel's RP bank unit sold for ₱1.4B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SINGAPORE CONGLOMERATE KEPPEL Corp. Ltd. sold 96.5 percent of their banking interests in the Philippines to the global consumer lending unit of US General Electric Co. for P1.45 billion in line with a strategy to divest non-core businesses.

In a disclosure yesterday, Keppel Corp. and its local associate Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. said that they have sold their majority interests, representing 23.4 million shares in Keppel Bank Philippines Inc., to GEC South East Asia Holdings, GEC Emerging Markets Asia Holding, and Raystanal Philippines Inc.

The acquisition price was based on Keppel Bank's book value, operational infrastructure and the fair market value of its assets.

Keppel Bank is the oldest thrift bank in the Philippines with total assets of approximately US$90 million.

Keppel has 30 branches and provides a broad range of banking and financial services, including deposits, personal loans, mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the New York State Banking Department have yet to approve the deal. Upon completion, Keppel Corp. will cease to have any interest in the outstanding capital of Keppel Bank.

Keppel Corp. and Keppel Holdings, through associates, will purchase Keppel Center, a 15-story office and residential building in Cebu from Keppel Bank for P620 million.

Keppel Holdings said the sale of Keppel Bank and its purchase of Keppel Center is expected to increase its net tangible assets by about 80 centavos a share.

Connecticut-based GE Consumer Finance, the group that is acquiring control of Keppel Bank, has more than $150 billion in assets and is a leading provider of credit services to consumers, retailers and auto dealers in 47 countries around the world.

The Keppel Group on the other hand has marine, property and infrastructure businesses in 27 countries. Keppel Corp. is listed in Singapore while its associate Keppel Holdings is listed on the PSE.

In acquiring Naia 3, gov't seen to lose

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF MRT-3 and the Naia Terminal 3 will only set back state efforts to resuscitate the country's ailing fiscal sector, according to an analyst.

In a letter to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Eduardo Yap, a financial analyst, said that taking over MRT-3 would further bloat the national government's debt stock, thus derailing its attempts to resolve the fiscal mess.

Government takeover of the operations of the Naia Terminal 3, if it pushes through, will even worsen the picture, Yap said.

"Government must rethink its plan to acquire the MRT3 and the Naia Terminal 3 ... the moves will represent a reversal of the privatization thrust started during the Ramos administration," Yap said when he presented his paper on the subject to members of the Strategic Studies Group of the National Defense College of the Philippines.

He noted that the privatization policy was adopted to help cure the ailing fiscal sector.

Yap in his letter said that as of 2003, the government's contingent liabilities on BOT projects alone already amounted to P308.85 billion.

According to earlier reports, the debt-ridden government is willing to borrow as much as P34 billion to be able to acquire MRT-3 and another P20 billion to operate Naia Terminal 3.

Yap, who is also a certified public accountant, said that a practical move to ease the government's fiscal burden would be to turn over the costly mass transport system to concerned local government units.

At present, the responsibility over the Metro Rail Transit system lies with the national government.

Yap said that the LGUs, unlike the national government, enjoy a budget surplus.

He argued that mass transit systems principally benefit the businesses and people who live, work or operate in the locality where the service is provided.

It would therefore be logical, he said, that the financial burden should be shouldered by the local beneficiaries and not by taxpayers in other regions of the country.

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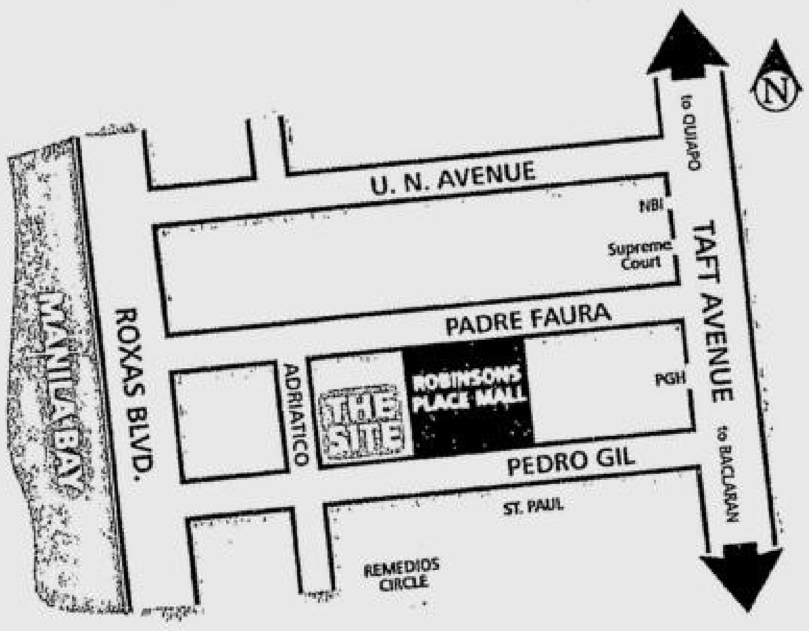

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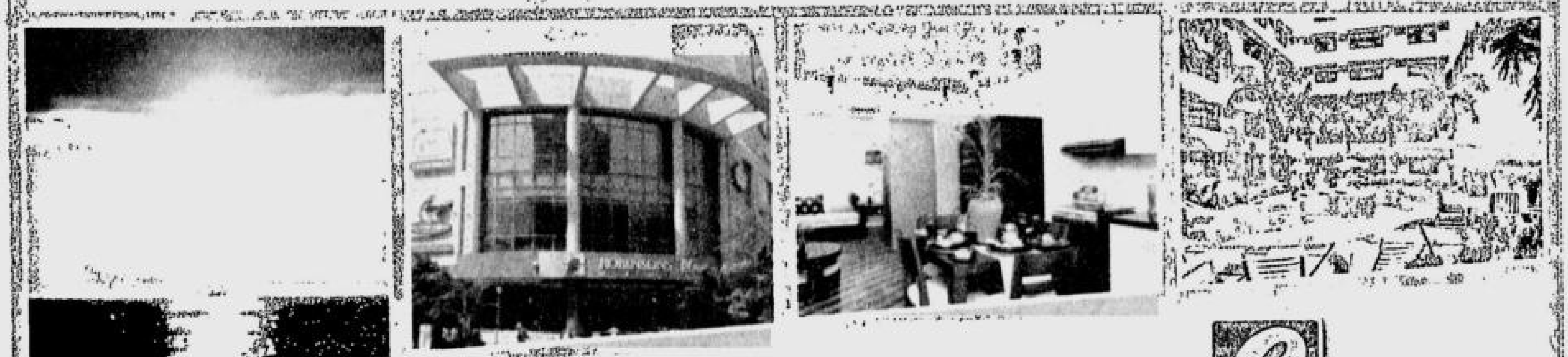
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Special night for special children

SUBCONSCIOUS," A FASHion show held recently at the Fernwood Gardens, was for the benefit of the Child's World, A Growing Center for Special Children. Part of the proceeds also went to the adolescent pavilion of the National Center for Mental Health.

It was upon reading about children with Down Syndrome being used by terrorists as "suicide bombers" and of other cases of special children raped or abandoned by adults that Ysa Villar, a 16-year-old high-school student, felt she was called to do something.

A big influence to Villar is her high-school education in Assumption College, where she has learned that the only answer to the cruelty of the world today is love and selflessness.

Another influence are her parents. Mom Chuchi Serrano Villar is a civic leader and her dad, Louie Villar Jr., a producer of successful concerts that inspire young people.

Instead of celebrating her 17th birthday with an expensive party, Villar asked her parents if she could have a fundraising instead. She brought together different talented young people to put up "Subconscious."

Mark San Diego modeled for the show and helped in the sponsorship and production. Kristine Caguiat designed the tickets and posters. Ana Jimenez did the inspiring video of the special children. Patrick de Veyra spent a day with the kids, creating the art pieces to be sold for the night. The young designers of the Fashion Institute of the Philippines created clothes for the event. Models waived off their talent fees. Carlo Evaristo directed the show.

Close friends of Villar helped sell the tickets. Crossover, the family-owned business, handled the production. Relatives and their friends came to support. Fe Rodriguez, an art collector, sponsored the art exhibit.

The evening began with the art exhibit of works by graduates of the UP College of Fine Arts and some special children.

A touching video on special children was shown, followed by the performance of the special children themselves.

Other highlights were the collaborative fashion show and performance by the Kapatid band.

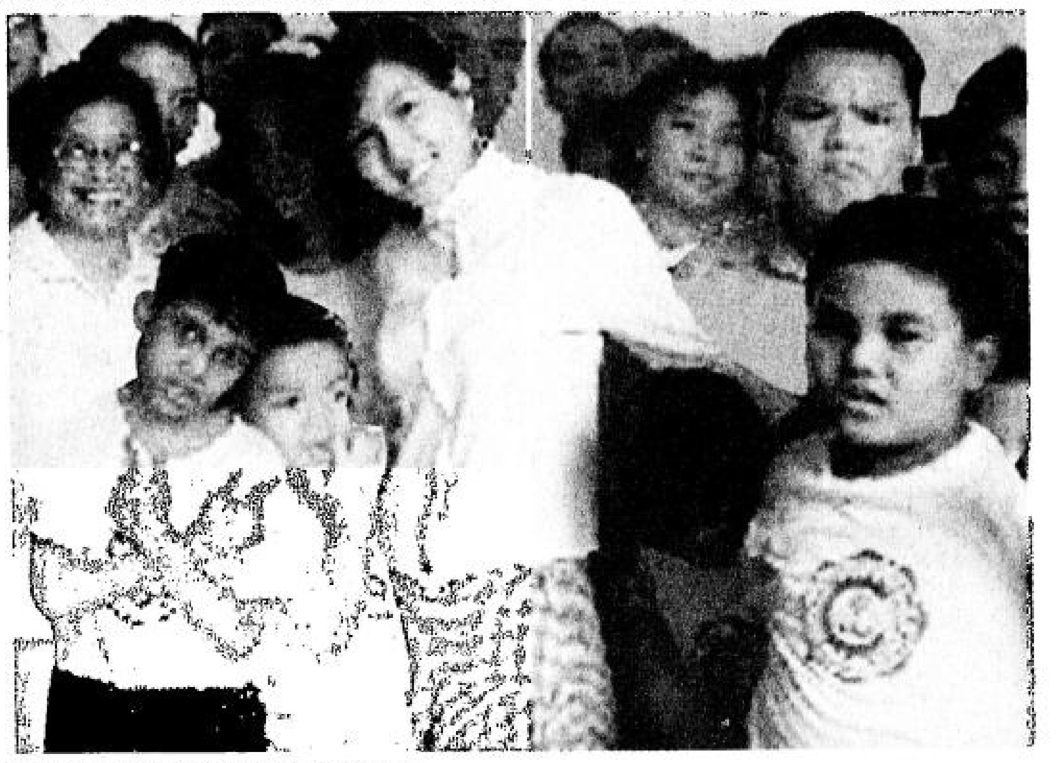
The show closed with a performance of the percussion band Hairy Dogs with DJ Patch of Absinth.

"Subconscious" was co-presented by No Curfew, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Fernwood Gardens and Tissot in cooperation with Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, Discovery Suites, Oakley, Reef, Mossimo and Radio Works and supported in part by Regalong Pambahay, Franck Provost, EXL Express, Edge Showroom and Absinthe Bar.

The night proved truly inspiring to the youth who packed the gardens and gained awareness of the condition of special children. Villar showed that a person could make a difference in many ways. She said she will continue her work by spending Saturday mornings teaching special children.

BERNARDINO Vicente, Clarita Aguilar, Ysa Villar, Mark San Diego and Chuchi Villar

CHUCHI Villar, director of Child's World Center Evelyn Tan, Ysa and Mark with special children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Are you changing the world?

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism on Volunteer In Person (VIP) Day, Oct. 21, at Rockwell Loft, Makati City.

Faces of Volunteerism recognizes Metro Manila's everyday heroes who in their everyday lives touch those who need them most.

They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays reading books to sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program also aims to encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others. On VIP Day, the Top 5 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

In a crowd of anonymous heroes, these are the faces that shine the brightest.

If you know anyone who deserves to be recognized, send your entries with the following details:

1. Name
2. Age
3. School/company/organization
4. Occupation (if applicable)
5. Volunteer experience in the last

ARE YOU/ C2

LYN CHING-PASCUAL:

"I'm down to a *sexy size 4* and have never been happier!"

Eleven months after childbirth and after only two months of regular treatments at Marie France, TV host Lyn Ching Pascual is at her slimmest, healthiest, one of the happiest periods of her life.

Why wouldn't she be? According to Lyn, she's been fat all her life. "I was an obese child. I weighed 140 lbs when I was only 10 years old. It was so bad it got to a point that my skin gave up on me. I had stretch marks particularly on the legs – at 10 years old! Imagine that!" For a kid, that was really a physical and emotional toll. She says she's been bullied, teased, and she could not engage in sports, which made it even harder for her to lose weight.

When she got older, Lyn went through different weight-loss methods. "Yo-yo dieting...gym (I'd workout religiously for months, then stop)...badminton (I'd play everyday, lose weight, and then stop)...it even got to a point when I became bulimic," confesses Lyn. "And I was on the verge of anorexia because I already refused to eat. I was at my thinnest then: 111 lbs. But I looked sick. I looked really, really sick: dry skin...I wasn't moving too much because I was always tired...I can't breathe well...I had a lot of problems at that time. Plus, I really love eating food! That's why it's so hard for me to go on a diet."

That's why she couldn't be happier when she enrolled at Marie France. "I lost a lot of weight even if I still overeat. I actually have a sweet tooth so I eat 2 bags of caramel popcorn everyday – and I never miss a day. I'm like, Marie France is making sure that I get thin anyway, so I really don't watch what I eat. So I'm really surprised with the result of my Marie France treatments. And I'm very happy because I can still eat whatever I want!"

She adds, "Their treatments are very easy, very fast, very safe, and very convenient for me. After the show *(Unang Hirit)*, which ends at around 8:30-8:45 a.m., I go straight to Marie France. They open early so there's really no problem regarding schedule. It's very convenient because whatever I wear when I arrive, I can also wear when I leave. I don't have to take a bath or even take some time to rest after a really, really heavy workout. There's no workout. It's really convenient for nursing mothers like me because I can immediately hold my baby when I get home (which is only about 10 minutes from the center) since I'm not tired. At Marie France, you just lie down and everyone else has to work for you. Where can you get that kind of deal? Literally, you just lie down and you lose weight. What more can I ask for!"

Indeed, Lyn is a picture of true satisfaction. With a figure that has transformed from, according to her, "a huge American size 10" to "a sexy size 4"...who wouldn't be? "Now I can wear sexy clothes!" she exclaims. "It feels good to know that you can really lose weight if you want to."

Now everybody's asking how she did it. "Everyday I get compliments. People from the audience, people from the show, even a close friend of mine says, 'I have never seen you this thin before.' That's because before, when I used to workout a lot, I lost weight but I looked bulky. I lost on pounds but not on inches. Now I lose both inches and pounds. And whenever people ask how I did it, I always tell them – Marie France! Don't do anything, just Marie France. Just lie down at Marie France!"

With her new, slimmer Marie France body, she's more active, feels healthier, and looks much younger even with an 11-month-old daughter in tow. What makes her really happy, of course, are the compliments her husband showers her everyday. "He says, 'My wife is so sexy.' Next to 'I love you', that for me is the best thing I hear him say."

As Lyn Ching Pascual says, "Where else can you slim down just by literally lying down?" Be healthier, sexier, and happier with your new Marie France Body. Just call

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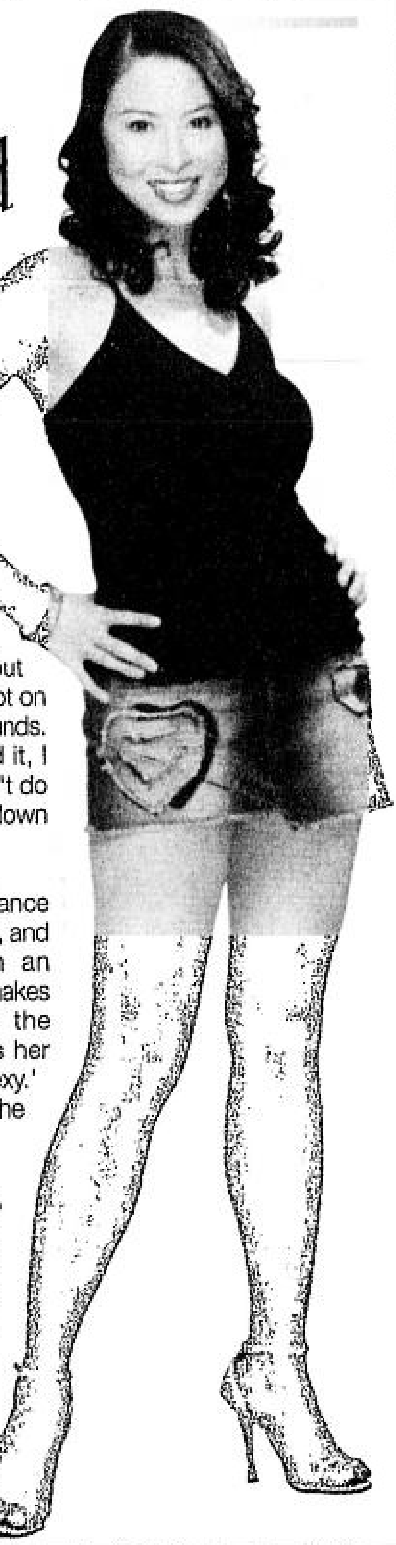

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The Rolling Stones gather no moss

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

ROCK'S ROYALTY RETURNS with an explosion as geriatric rockers the Rolling Stones come out with "A Bigger Bang," the band's first studio album since the 1997 release "Bridges to Babylon."

The album, which got its name from the band's fascination with the origin of the universe, features 16 tracks that are reminiscent of the Stones' earlier work. In a recent interview with Billboard magazine, legendary guitarist Keith Richards even described the release as "Raw Stones."

With lyrics smeared with the band's usual brand of love, heartache and tongue-in-cheek humor, the new album brings back memories of the classic "Exile on Main Street." It probably won't live up to the lore of one of the greatest albums of all time, but it is one of the group's better releases in the past few years.

Fans of the Stones' fusion of straight-up rock-and-roll riffs and blues melodies will definitely have their fill, as a number of tracks display the range of the band's musicality.

For "A Bigger Bang," the Rolling Stones reunited with producer Don Was, who worked with the Stones in the "Bridges to Babylon" album, which saw the band experimenting with contemporary genres like rap and electronica. Was also co-produced the 1994 release "Voodoo Lounge" as well as the live album "Stripped," the greatest-hits collection "Forty Licks" and the double-CD live performance release "Live Licks."

No frills

The album's no-frills approach gives it a more authentic feel, reminiscent of the band's earlier releases. The Stones have come back to their roots, blending rock and blues to make one of their most solid efforts in recent memory.

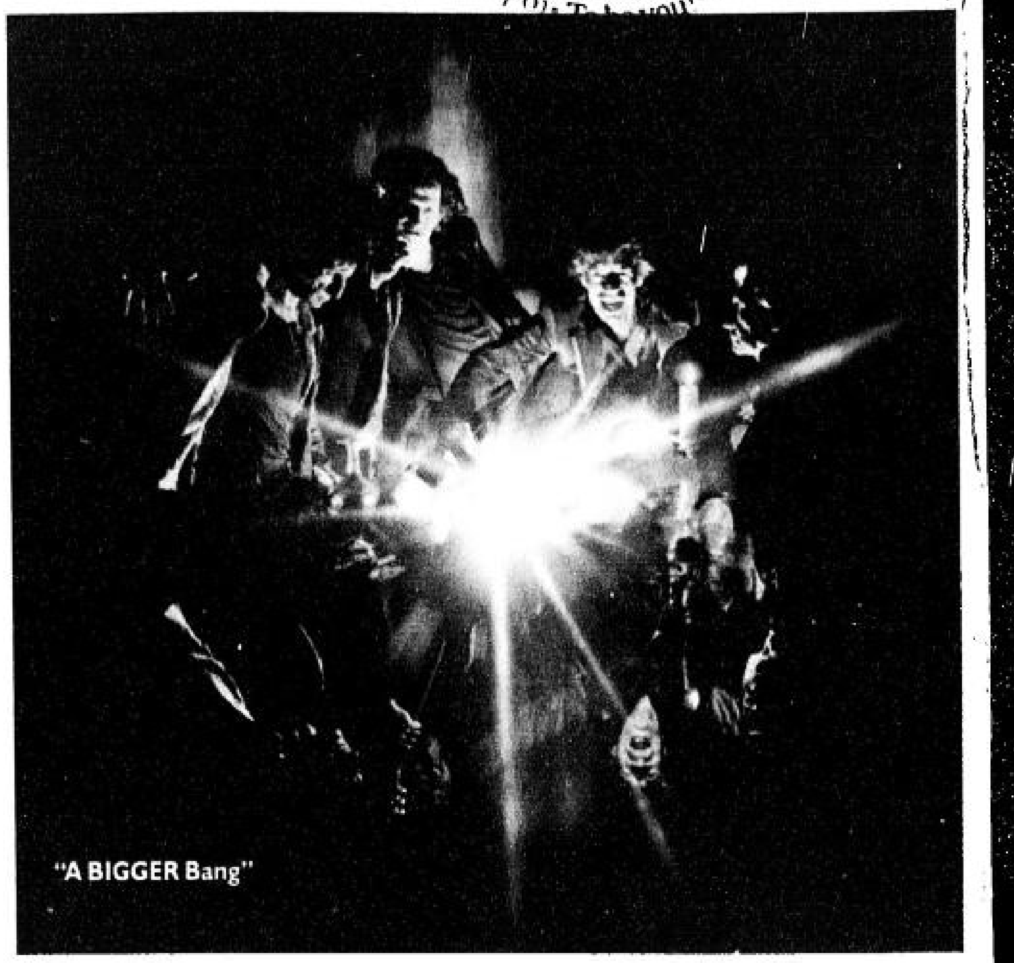
The single "Streets of Love," which has already been getting airplay from a number of local radio stations, is the perfect example of the blues-rock sound that has been the staple of Rolling Stones releases. The vocal work in the track is stunning. Mick Jagger's melancholic and poignant vocals are moving, almost as if he is possessed by the spirit of Johnny Cash. The subtle blues harmonies that permeate the song make it a standout in the album.

"Back of my Hand" further displays the band's affinity for "black music." With its harmonica-laden and straight-up blues sound, listening to it might bring to mind images of rural America in the 1940s. Other noteworthy tracks include the guitar-driven anthem "Rough Justice" and the energetic "She Saw Me Coming."

'A Bigger Bang' is the band's first studio album since the 1997 release 'Bridges to Babylon'

Double duty

The Stones started recording the album in June 2004, with the often-volatile songwriting duo of Jagger and Richards doing double duty. At the time, drummer Charlie Watts was undergoing treatment for cancer, leaving the duo guessing if they would be the last remaining members from the band's original lineup.


"A BIGGER Bang"

To keep things going, the Stones commenced recording sessions with just Jagger and Richards. Jagger, in addition to doing vocal work, dabbled on the drums and Richards strapped on the bass. However, except for a few hits, none of Jagger's drum tracks were actually included in the album. Perhaps the short-handed nature with which the album was made explains its stripped-down sound.

When Watt's treatment yielded successful results, he and guitarist Ron Wood joined the rest of the band for recording sessions at Jagger's French estate. However, most of the songs only have Jagger, Richards and Watts on it; other musicians who lent a hand were bassist Darryl Jones and keyboardist Chuck Leavell.

They've got rhythm

By Jeffrey Azor-Osoc
Contributor

MCDONALD'S PHILIPPINES, WITH MTV Pilipinas, Vicor Music Corp. and Globe Gentxt, organized "The Next Big Thing," a quest for the newest rhythm-and-blues singing sensation last Aug. 21, at Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

After extensive screening of contestants, the finals list was pared down to five—Kristine Demetrio, Gayle Dizon, Mitchell Salonga, Abby Vicente and Zion Aquino. They went through several performances, musical training and image makeovers designed to turn them into certified RnB celebrities.

Hosted by MTV VJ's Cindy Kurleto, John Joe Joseph and Don Puno, the contest allowed aspiring singers to show off their singing prowess on stage.

Fantastic five

With Magic 89.9's DJ Mc Dash rapping, the final five were introduced.

Hailing from Cebu, Kristine Demetrio aspires to become one of the top RnB artists in the land. She said she got her voice from her mom and dad. Aaliyah and Destiny's Child top her list of favorite singers. She sung "Emotions" by Destiny's Child for the finals.

'The Next Best Thing' gives aspiring rhythm-and-blues singers a shot at fame

Coming from a family of musicians, Gayle Dizon got hooked into music because of her dad, a jazz fan. RnB superstars Alicia Keys, Lauryn Hill and power-belter Chaka Kan are her musical influences. But she considers Billie Holiday as her ultimate idol. She sang Key's "How Come You Don't Call Me?" in the finals.

He paints, designs and loves anything related to art, particularly singing his heart out. Singer and family man Mitchell Silonga serenaded the audience with "I'll Make Love to You" by Boyz II Men. Aside from Boyz II Men, Marci Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Usher are his favorites. This lad also came from a clan of music enthusiasts. He has a band. His band mate, in fact, is co-finalist Gayle.

Claiming to have inherited her singing voice from her mother who is a singer, Abby Vicente dreams of a having successful music career and becoming the "next big thing." Mariah Carey and Shirley Bassey are just two of her favorite minstrels. She sung "You Put a Move on My Heart" by Tamia.

Rounding up the astounding pool of finalists was Zion Aquino, a call-center agent who dreams of becoming a great entertainer. With his powerful voice and killer dance moves, Zion seemed to have proven his potential as he crooned with his own rendition of "Ordinary People," sung by one of his idols, John Legend. Justine Timberlake and Brian McKnight are his other idols.

Newest sensation

The fate of the RnB hopefuls rested on the hands of the three judges: Barbie Ocampo, marketing manager of McDonald's Philippines; Jack Madrid of MTV Pilipinas; and Steve Tan of Vicor Music Philippines. The finalists were judged based on their singing (50 percent), dancing (20 percent), personality and attitude (10 percent), and audience appeal (10 percent). The final 10 percent came from popular voting through SMS.

After extended deliberation by the judges, Zion Aquino was declared winner. He took home P250,000 in cash, tax-free, an iPod shuffle from McDonald's, a recording contract from Vicor Music Philippines and an Ericsson K700i from Globe Gentxt. Later, he was made to perform on MTV Pilipinas Music Awards 2005 last Aug. 25 at Araneta Coliseum.

Kristine received a Motorola C117 from Globe Gentxt for winning the Texter's Choice Award. The other four finalists got P20,000, a Sony Discman from McDonald's and a Motorola C380 from Globe Gentxt.

As McDonald's way of searching for the musical great of the future, "The Next Big Thing" is going to be an annual competition that will include other genres as well such as pop, urban, hip-hop and rock.

Are you . . .

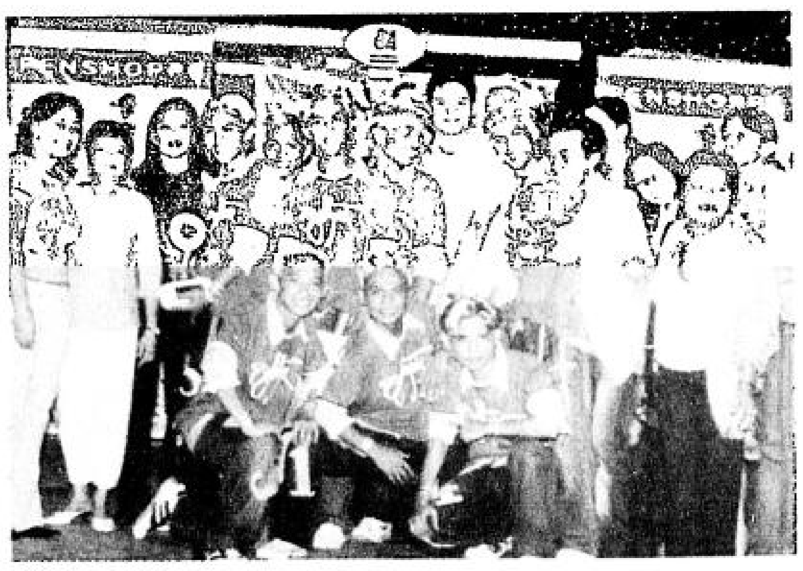
From page C1

year. Talk about your:
a. Organizations/projects involved including contact person/numbers/addresses
b. Duration/frequency
c. Activity/task involved
d. How your service was significant to the project
e. Why you chose this program/project
f. How the experience affected you
6. Documentation
a. 2x2 photo
b. Certification from community/organization
7. Two references (name, contact information)
8. Briefly describe your proposal project. Please give:
a. Details of the organization including contact information
b. Title of the project
c. Objectives
d. Project duration
e. Activities including role of volunteers
f. Budget

Entries may be sent to HSBC Faces of Volunteerism c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; or Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., Unit LP10 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo cor. dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, or e-mail homla@info.com.ph.

MSU-IIT Integrated Developmental School's Second Street Edition

UNIVERSITY of Cebu's All Star B-boys


ST. PETER'S College's G-Unit

A slamming streetdance showdown

PONEVEDRA National High School's Rhythm 'N Motion

From page C4

Club Pen member Cogie Domingo was there to host and party with the teens from Bacolod and Cagayan.

Cebu and Davao

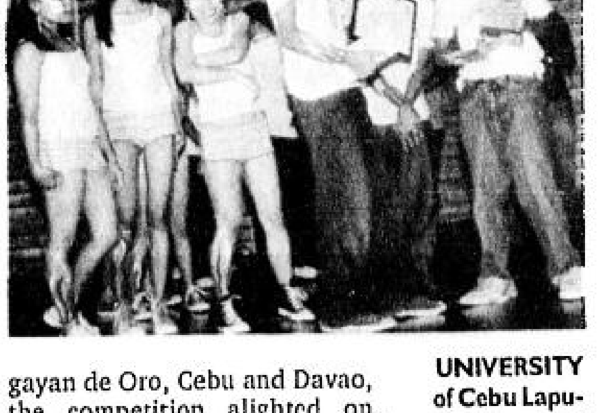
In Ayala Center-Cebu, the University of Cebu Lapu-Lapu and Mactan brought home the bacon in the high school category, while the All Star B-boys of the University of Cebu charmed the judges with their skills, winning in the college division.

SM City hosted the Davao leg of the competition. High school students of Rizal Special Education Learning Center rejoiced when their representative group conquered the top spot, while the Joji Ilagan Foundation Inc. dance ensemble emerged as the grand champion in the college division.

Another Club Pen member planed in to witness the dance showdown. Ala Paredes—who is now busy with her band Hiraya—guested in "Sabado Na Gyud," a local ABS-CBN Cebu TV show, and visited several radio stations to promote the dance contest.

Each grand prize winner took home P25,000, P5,000 for the school the group represented, exclusive winner's shirts for all members, Penshoppe gift certificates worth P3,000, a trophy and certificates of participation. First runners-up received P15,000 cash, Penshoppe gift certificates worth P3,000, a trophy and certificates of participation. Second runners-up were awarded P10,000 cash, Penshoppe gift certificates worth P3,000, a trophy and certificates of participation.

After hitting Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Davao, the competition alighted on Manila. The Penshoppe "Denimlab Dance Slam" elimination round for the National Capital Region started last Sept. 10 at SM Megamall, with the grand finals scheduled on Oct. 29 at Market! Market!


UNIVERSITY of Cebu Lapu-Lapu and Mactan's Schizophrenic Danz Group

Ready for their close-up!

REYSON Yap and Carine Cabebe, the newest Close-Up models

CAMERAS FLASHING, CROWDS CHEERING their names, people asking for their autographs. This fresh-faced young pair from Davao City never expected the trappings of fame, but now, they're ready and eager for a bright modeling and show-biz career as Close-Up to Fame's winning couple.

Reyson Yap and Carine Cabebe are both Ateneo de Davao graduates who took a chance and auditioned for the show four months ago. Carine had planned to follow the footsteps of her lawyer dad and accountant mom, while Reyson was preparing to help his parents manage the family business.

Their lives changed when they came to Manila, went through workshops, photo shoots and weekly challenges, and finally made it to the final leg of the contest as part of the Famous Six.

The decisive moment came in at "CloseUp to Fame: The Final Call," a grand show at the Ultra with today's most popular young celebrities. Fans and supporters chanted the names of all the finalists, but in the end, Reyson and Carine stood out because of their stellar smile, confidence and natural charm.

Aside from their distinctive fashion sense—which, early on, had marked them as two of the most stylish candidates—they both have unique personalities that provide something different and refreshing from what one usually expects in a star. Carine is smart, outspoken and introspective; Reyson is laid-back, cool and outgoing. Both of them think that simplicity and confidence were the winning assets that set them apart.

"I guess *'yung pagiging totoo* was an advantage for me. I wasn't trying too hard; I was just being myself," says Carine. "Some people even told me that for a Close-Up model, I don't smile that often. But now, I guess I'll be smiling more!"

Reyson recalls that he wasn't nervous during the finals. "I felt carefree, *okay lang kahit 'di manalo. Nag*-hand signal *pa nga ako* sa family *ko* right before the final announcement, thumbs-up and thumbs-down, to say that we should accept whatever the outcome would be. They cheered to show that they'll still be happy for me no matter what."

It was a sweet and unexpected victory for both. Their families and friends came all the way from Davao City to show their support. Carine's uncle had a banner especially made for her, and Reyson's proud parents showed up with two large teddy bears wearing "I Love Reyson" shirts. Both winners had promised to give part of their prize money to their parents.

"Since I'm an accountancy graduate, I'll make sure to invest the money wisely," Carine smilingly says. "*Pero gusto ko talagang umuwi sa* Davao when I get the chance. I want to spend time with my family to thank them for all their love and support."

Reyson, a management graduate, still wants to help his entrepreneur father. "My dad has always been my inspiration and idol," he shares. "When I won, he kept saying how proud he was of me. I really would like to help him out somehow."

As he was coming down from the stage, a friend's relative asked for Reyson's autograph. Reyson readily signed it with a smile and talked politely with his new fan. Carine, on the other hand, greeted old friends in Cebuano and hugged each of her relatives in turn. Humility, they agree, is part of being famous.

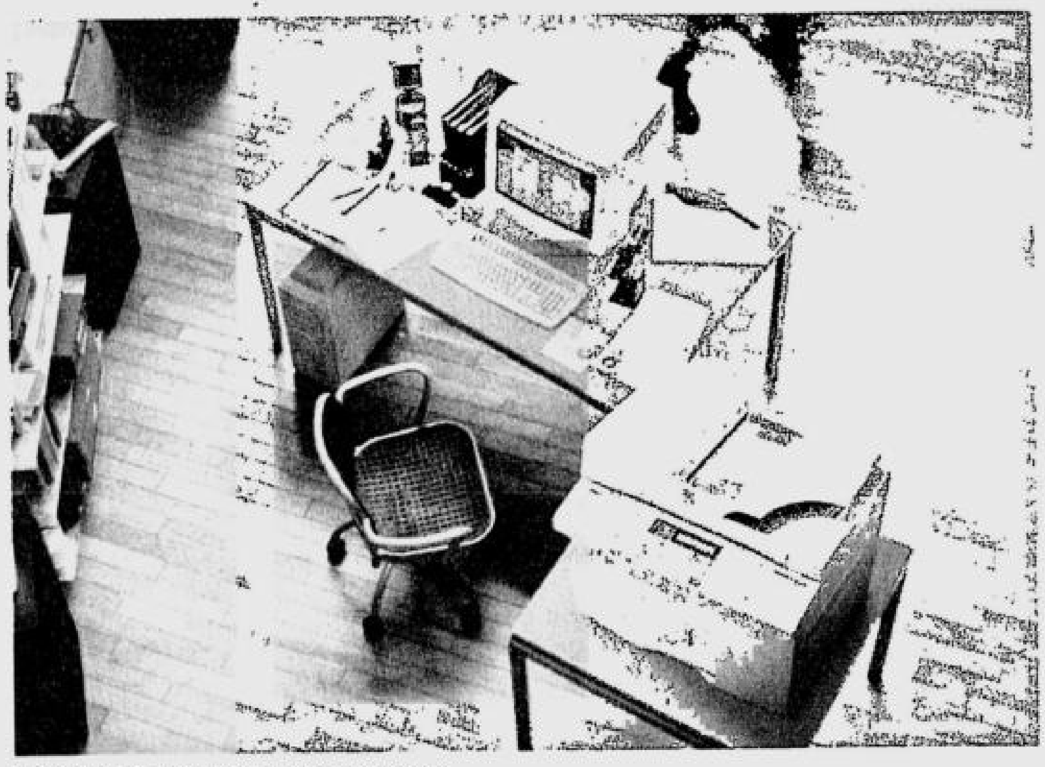
"I'll still talk in Bisaya, still hang out with my friends. For me, the best way of thanking all those who supported me is to stay as friendly and close to them as ever," Carine says. "'*Di ako magbabago sa pakikitungo sa kanila.* I wouldn't be here without them anyway," says Reyson.

Reyson and Carine view their new status as Close-Up endorsers and up-and-coming stars as a new and exciting challenge.

"I'm open to taking acting and dance lessons or any other projects that would improve my skills. I look forward to learning more," says Carine. For Reyson, fame is an opportunity and a blessing: "I'm thankful to God for this, and I'm enjoying every minute of it."

New printing marvels

By Gabriel H. Mercado
Contributor



PRINTING power at work and at home

SAMSUNG PHILIPPINES RECENTLY launched its 2005 lineup of new laser printers for offices, and a special dye-sublimation printer for digicam enthusiasts.

The first of three lineups includes the standard monochrome models encompassing the small office—home office (Soho) market, to small- and mid-sized office models for small and medium businesses, all the way up to larger-duty cycle models with built-in networking and other new innovations in printer serving.

The three other printer ranges launched were the Color Laser Printer range, featuring two models: the high-end, high-output CLP-510, and the 510N with 64mb built in, USB 2.0, LAN, duplex function and a 35,000- page duty cycle. The launch also introduced four multi-function models. Two of these, the SCX-4216F and SCX-4100, allow printing, scanning and copying; while the two others, SF-5100 and SCX-4720F, offer the same features plus faxing as well.

The standout SPP-4020 "photo printer" offers a new type of printer especially designed for click-happy digicam users who still like making physical (as opposed to virtual) photo albums. It offers the ability to quickly print pictures as small as 180x136x61 mm directly from a camera or digital memory card.

Monochrome printers

Of the four standard monochrome models, ranging from the simple ML-1610 to the highest end ML-2550, the differences lie mainly in duty cycles, ranging from a simple 5,000 pages all the way to 100,000 pages for the 2550, indicating its planned use as a shared office printer. Dpi ranges from 600x600 to a full 1200x1200, and first page—out ranges in seconds from 10-12. USB connectivity is also standard, with the ML-2550 models featuring IEEE 1284 as well.

An important innovation being introduced is the PCounter, which will surely pique the interest of system administrators and cost-conscious office administrators everywhere.

Apparently a third-party product and using MS Windows NT or Novell Netware technology, PCounter will count pages printed on any Postscript or PCL networked printer and can enforce printing account balance quotas per user. It can keep log files, generate reports and even determine cost. The reports are saved as a web page or as a CSV file that's readable by MS Excel. This means office dwellers who freely use printers to print their kid's assignments, birthday invitations, greeting cards and the like are in for a nasty surprise when they learn this activity can now be measured and placed on their record.

STYLISH workhorse

Office administrators, meanwhile, can keep track of previously unabated printing activities to cut down costs.

Color laser

The CLP-510 and 510N are Samsung's foray into the growing color laser printer market. The models operate at only 49dba, making them the quietest color laser printers in their class. They're no pushovers while printing in monochrome either, offering 24 pages per minute for A4 sizes, while color pages are at six pages per minute, both at up to 1200x1200 dpi.

A printer like this in any office is bound to cause a ruckus among employees who would immediately want to try printing family and outing pictures on the cheap and at such a high quality. Thank goodness there's PCounter for such occasions.

Multi-function

The multi-function printer range has traditionally made a strong statement for cost, with its ability to print, scan, copy and fax, all in one machine. The SCX-4100 multi-function laser printer also functions as a mini-copier, which assures that you'll find space for it even in the tiniest of offices.

Along with the 4100, the SCX-4216F also offers advanced digital edit functions, such as two-slides-in-one for making identification cards, two-up, auto fit, clone, poster and copy.

You can also make up to 99 copies at one time, and can even zoom an image up to 400 percent.

BEST-SELLER Kopi Bun (P35)

Tasty Kopi, Yummy Roti

Text and Photos By Zee Castro
2bU! Correspondent

FOR THE coffee-crazy

THERE'S A BRAND NEW COFFEE place right smack in the bustling Tomas Morato. Kopiroti is a Singaporean coffee shop franchise that's sure to give its more commercial counterparts a run for their money.

Owned by Wilson and Julie Tecson, Kopiroti ("Kopi" is coffee, "roti" means bread) prides itself in offering an abundance of Singaporean treats at very affordable prices.

According to Julie Tecson, their shop caters all classes, from A-D. Though the small shop may have a stylish ambiance, their menu choices are very light on the wallet.

This was indeed proven by her son, Freence, who shared that a group of umbrella boys stationed along Tomas Morato would often go to the store and share a Kopi Bun while browsing the stores available magazines.

The Kopi Bun is their best-seller. It is priced at P35, and has a coffee-flavored crust with a soft, textured center. Some customers even order these for takeout so that they can enjoy this tasty treat at home.

The Kopi Bun can be popped into a pre-heated oven and it would still taste fresh as the day before.

The Homemade Roti Kaya Toast (P35) is definitely a must-try! Kaya is a Singaporean version of our *pan de coco*. The sweet Kaya spread, savory butter and crunchy toast is a perfect combination.

Take a sip of Kopi and you'll surely have second thoughts on shelling P80 for a cup of cappuccino ever again. Kopiroti brews their coffee in traditional kettles. No need to put sugar in your Kopi, as it is served with a helping of condensed milk. Customers can request for a bit more or a little less of it, but actually their condensed milk serving is just right!

Kopiroti also offers set meals. Two pieces of Roti French Toast, two soft boiled eggs with a special sauce, and kopi or tea will only set you back P115.

This coffee shop will indeed draw droves of coffee-crazy patrons. Coming October, they'll also be opening a store in Katipunan. The affordability and appealing taste of their offerings are indeed their greatest selling point.

This coffee fan has definitely found a new coffee place to return to.

Kopiroti is at 186 Tomas Morato cor Scout de Guia, Quezon City. It is beside May Bank and in front of Alfredos. Call 4141754.

E-mail the author at zeecastro @yahoo.com

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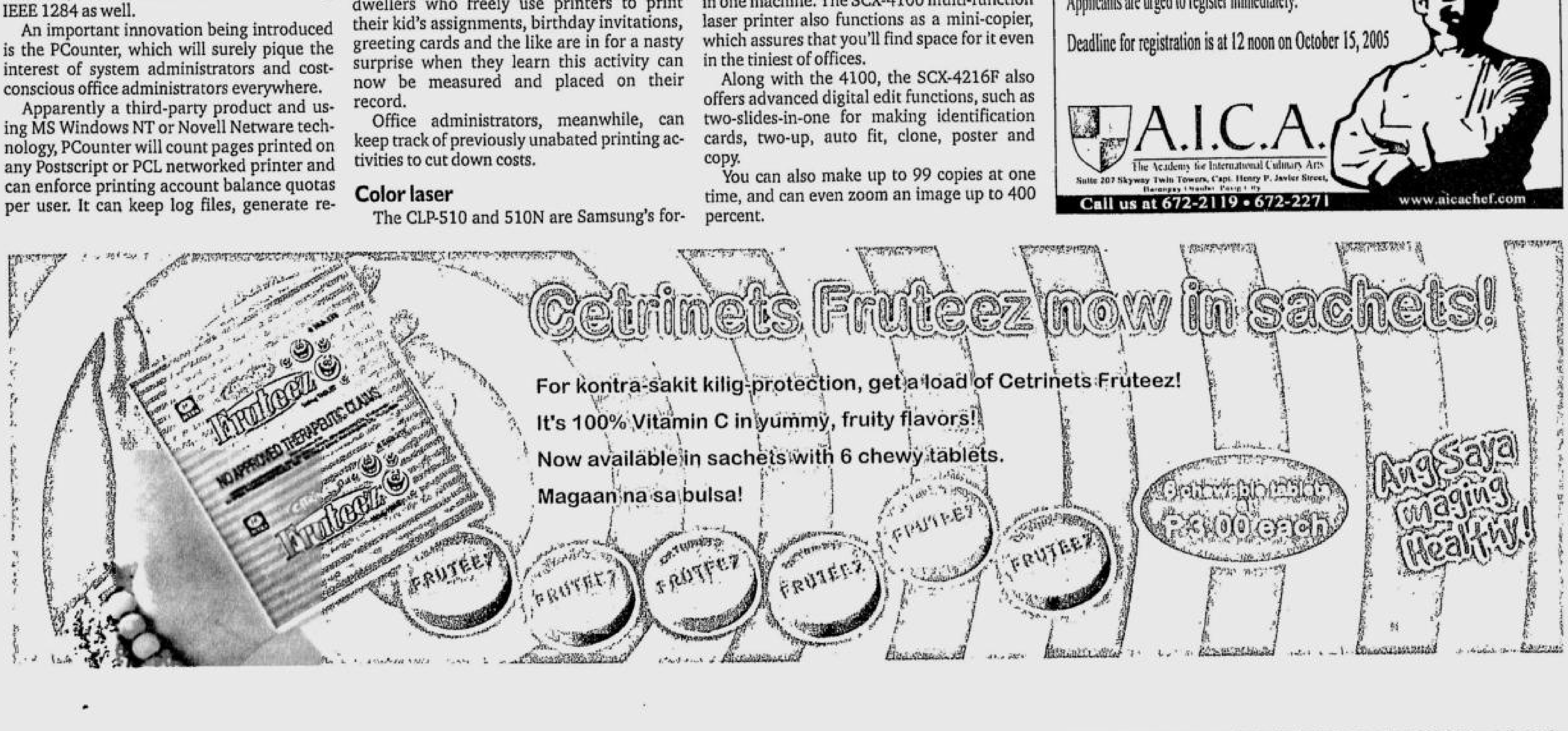

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Ang Saya maging Healthy!

JOJI Ilagan Foundation Inc.'s Intensity Bong

A slamming streetdance showdown

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

DANCING—AN ART FORM that merges music and movement—is undoubtedly one form of physical expression young people are hooked on. It's an exhilarating workout. It gives one a natural high and lets him or her express and impress. How can you not be hooked?

Penshoppe very well understands this point. It's a brand that embodies and supports everything vibrant about the teenage years. Inspired by the countless young people who are passionate about the art of dance, Penshoppe launched "Denimlab Dance Slam" in 2003, an annual competition for students who are into streetdance.

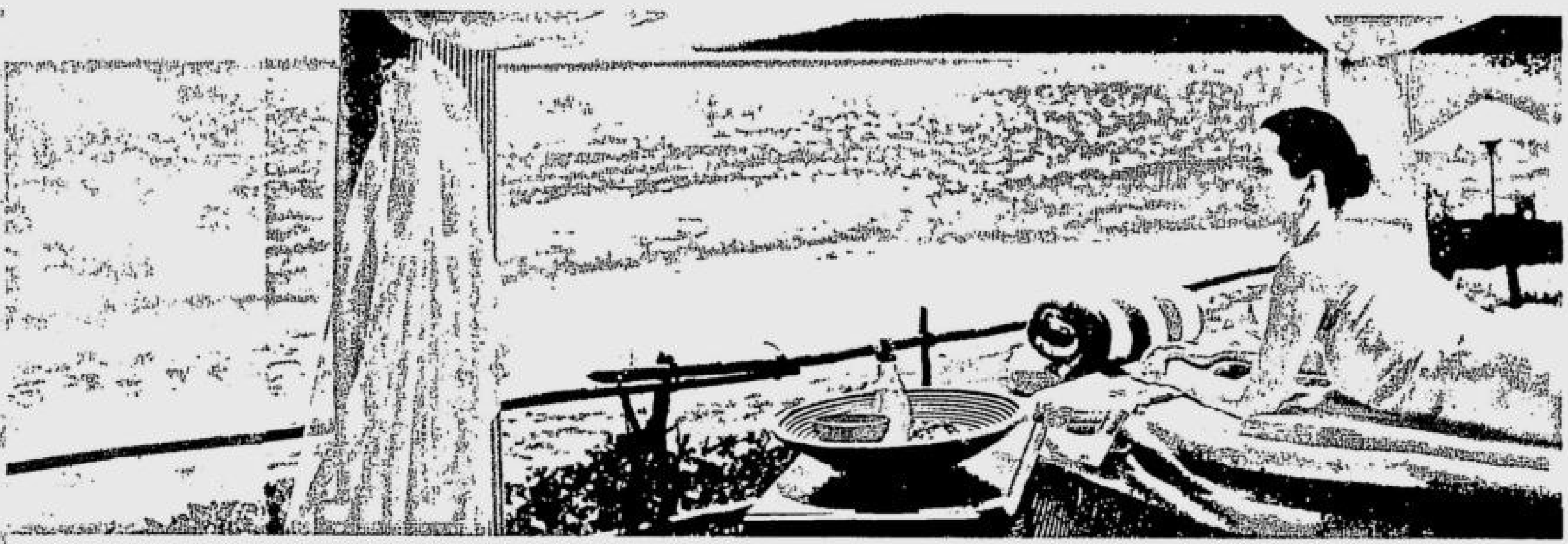
For the past two years, "Denimlab Dance Slam" has been doing the rounds of the country's schools, gathering spirited students who desire to showcase their moves.

The Bacolod City finals was held at Robinsons Bacolod where Pontevedra National High School won in the high school category, and the University of St. La Salle's Gravity Chem won in the college division.

In Cagayan de Oro's SM City, MSU-IIT Integrated Developmental School wowed the crowd and was proclaimed the champion in the high school category, while St. Peter's College triumphed over the other college groups.

A SLAMMING/ C3

Asia Miles



Reward yourself with Asia Miles

EARNING THE EASY LIFE
Adventure seekers and travel lovers, like myself, know the importance of smart traveling. It's not just about understanding different cultures; it's about making each trip count.

So when my friends recommended I join Asia Miles, I didn't think twice. They'd been enjoying the many wonderful benefits of free membership of Asia's leading travel rewards programme for years–earning miles towards holidays, flight upgrades and so much more! The range of rewards designed to match anybody's lifestyle is one of the main reasons I instantly signed up as a member.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY
It's amazing how simple and easy it is to earn miles! Whenever my friends or I travel, we make sure we pick one of Asia Miles' 18 world-class airline partners, which include Cathay Pacific, British Airways, Qantas and Japan Airlines - the Asia Miles we earn quickly mount up! Once, I even earned 15,000 Asia Miles and rewarded myself with a free return ticket!

LIVING IT UP IN LUXURY
Asia Miles also has a wide range of world-renowned hotel partners including The Peninsula Hotels, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group and Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. So, whenever my family and I decide to indulge in well-appointed hospitality we get the added advantage of accumulating miles, which we can then redeem for a variety of special rewards!

CHARGE IT
I have never imagined that charging everyday items to my credit card could be so beneficial. With my Citibank Cathay Pacific VISA, I have earned 25,000 Asia Miles to redeem my free return ticket to Hong Kong and have one of the greatest times of my life!

FILL UP ON EARNING POWER
I can even earn Asia Miles simply by hiring cars from Avis, Hertz or SIXT. Car rental not only gives me the chance to get out of town on the weekends and the freedom to sight-see when I'm abroad, but I also earn more miles towards my next dream holiday with my family and other fantastic lifestyle awards!

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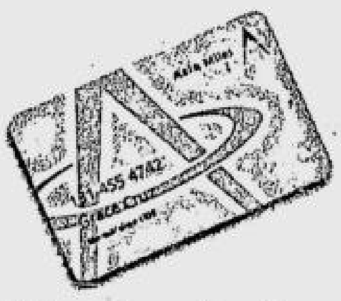
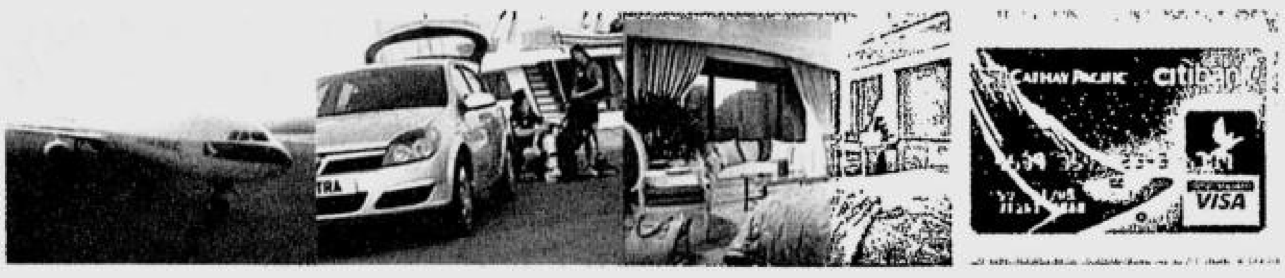
- Remember to reserve a car with Avis, Hertz or SIXT before you travel abroad
- Keep an eye for promotions and offers, bookmark www.asiamiles.com in your computer
- Carry your Asia Miles membership card with you everywhere

TREAT YOURSELF
Want the miles? Carry the card and start earning. Log on to www.asiamiles.com for your free membership now!



Want the miles?
Carry the card.



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Born in Cantilan, Surigao Del Sur, Yau is best known for his "Yau Model" which appears in various semiconductor textbooks and is a classic foundation for the Short Channel MOS transistor.

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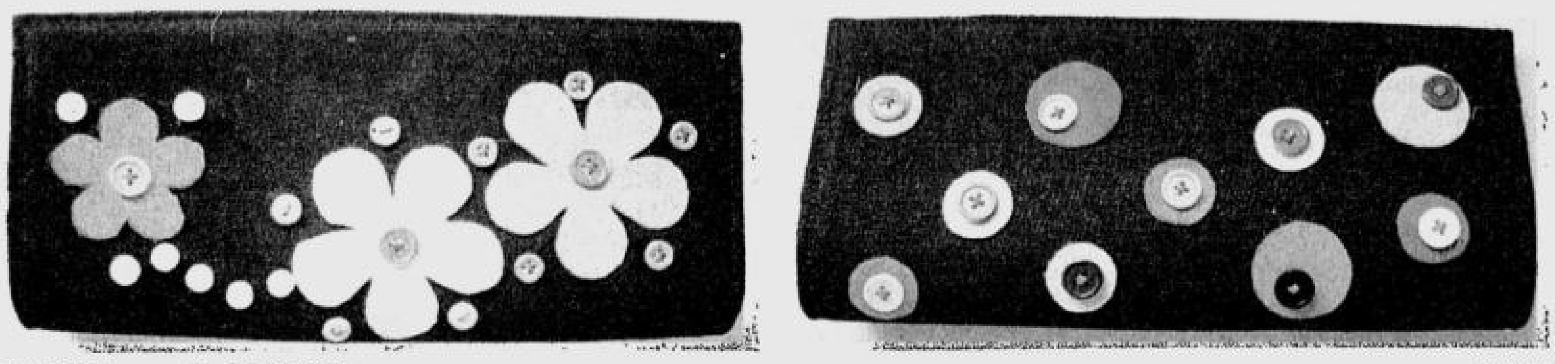
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

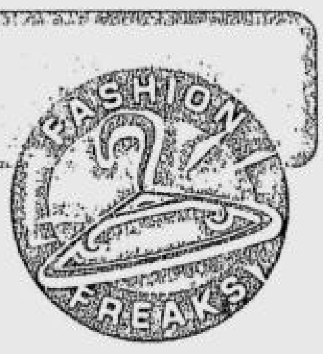
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Slabsters

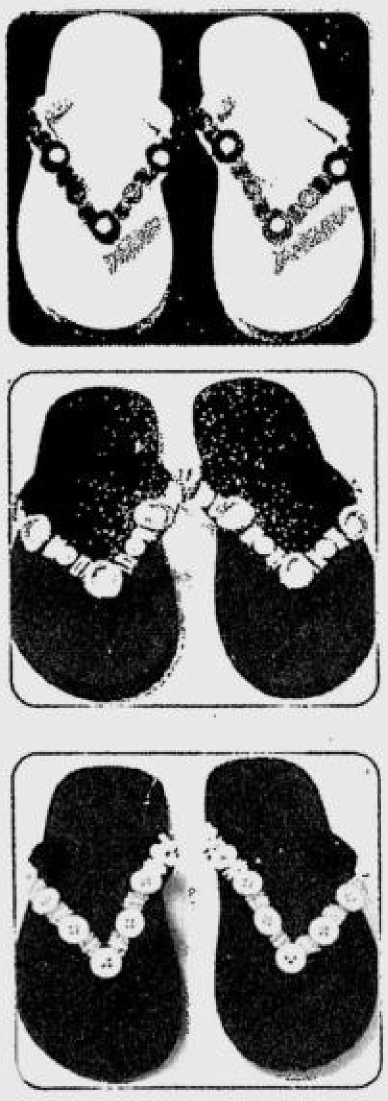

CLUTCH bags go for P450-P500.

RYAN LIM

Embellishment is her game

Wendy Liz Chua uses buttons, beads, gems and crochet patterns to make one-of-a-kind bags, tops and flip flops




EMBELLISHED flip flips, P280-P400, depending on the design

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TWENTY-THREE-year-old Wendy Liz Chua's primary goal is to provide appealing but affordable products to people. Her embellished bags, tops and flip flops fulfill that promise, and more.

Women from ages 13-60 have fallen in love with her products for many reasons.

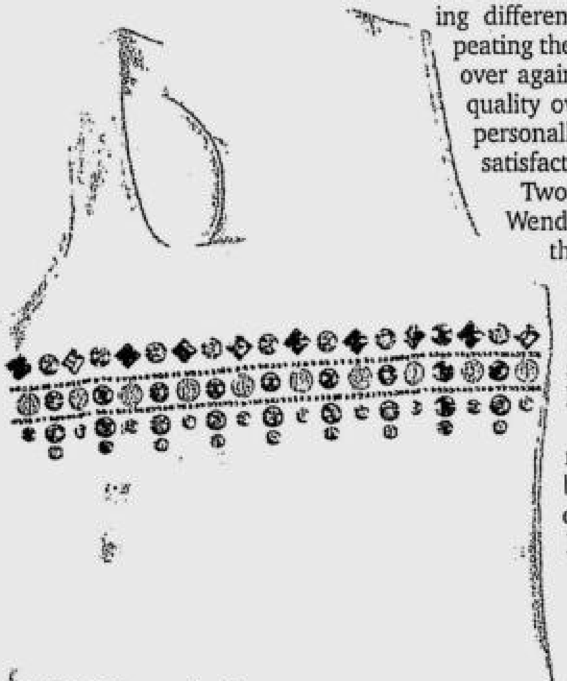
One, their uniqueness. You can walk around with no fears of running into someone wearing the exact same thing because Wendy very rarely repeats her designs.

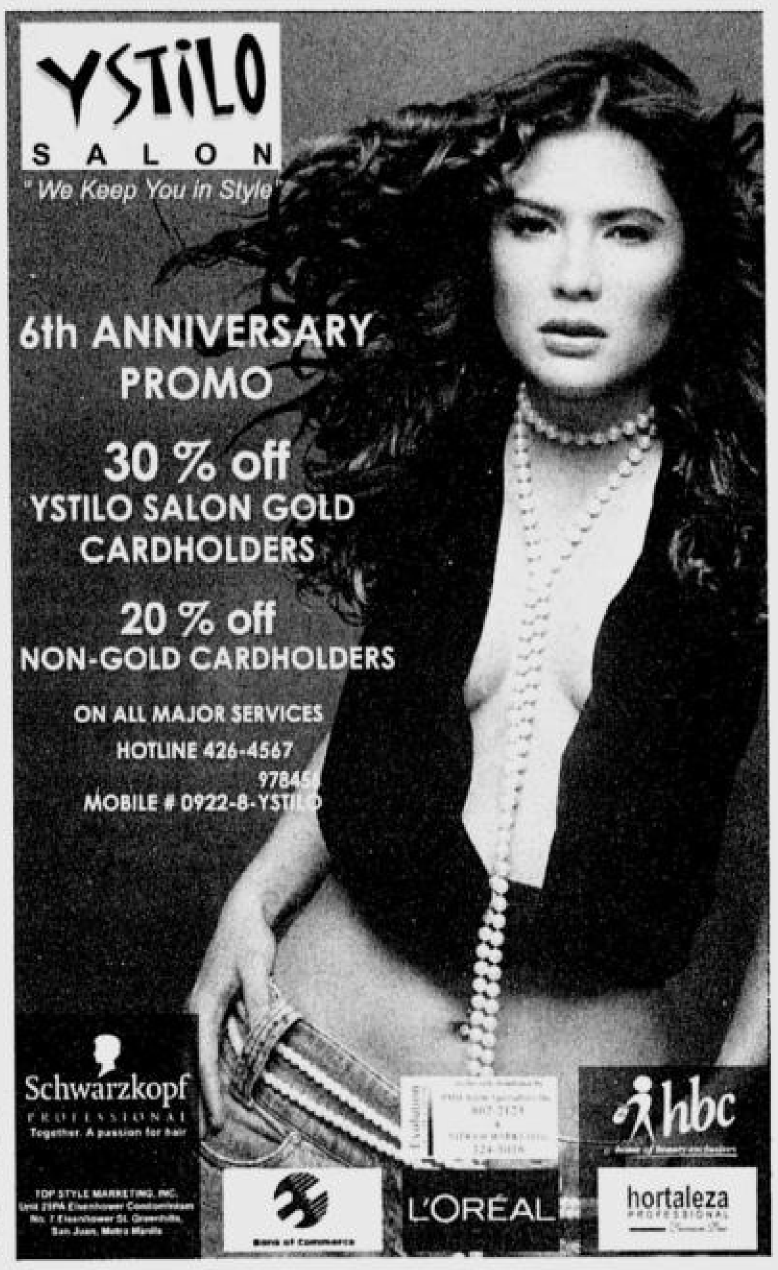
"I personally design them," she says. "I try to avoid repetitions in my designs, especially with the tops, since I want them to be more exclusive for the client who buys them. For the slippers, the combination of materials I use and the pattern makes them different from products available in the malls. I rarely repeat patterns since I want every pair to be unique. Aside from this, I find more fun in making different designs than repeating the same one over and over again. I give priority to quality over quantity since I personally value my clients' satisfaction."

Two, the care that Wendy puts into creating these fashion pieces. Her tops and the flip flops are painstakingly designed and embellished by hand.

Three, the social relevance. Wendy's brother gave her the chance to provide livelihood for Payatas mothers by letting them sew the bags. With each purchase of a bag, you are not only responding to your urge to

EMBELLISHMENT/ D3


YELLOW racerback with gems, P900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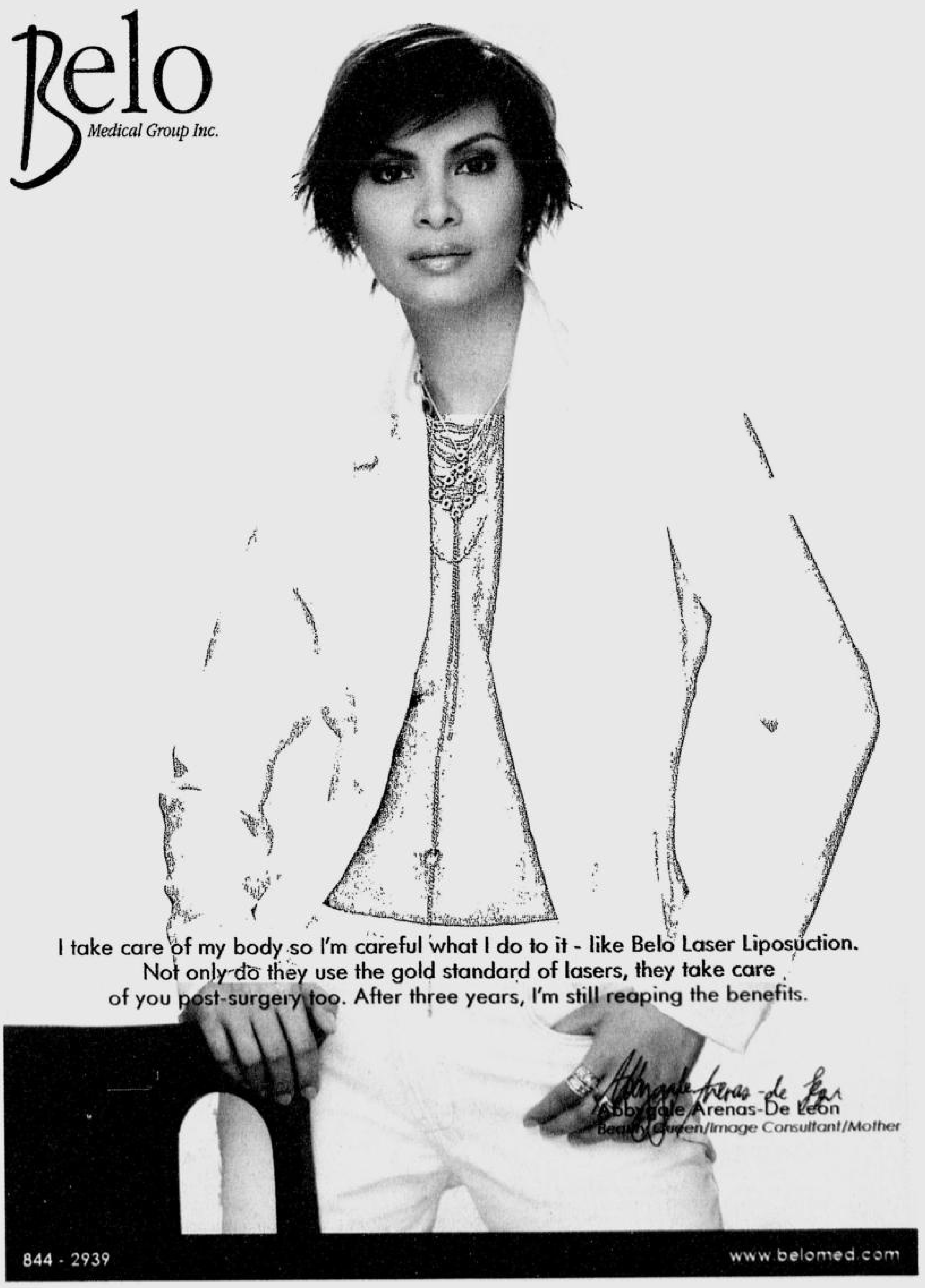
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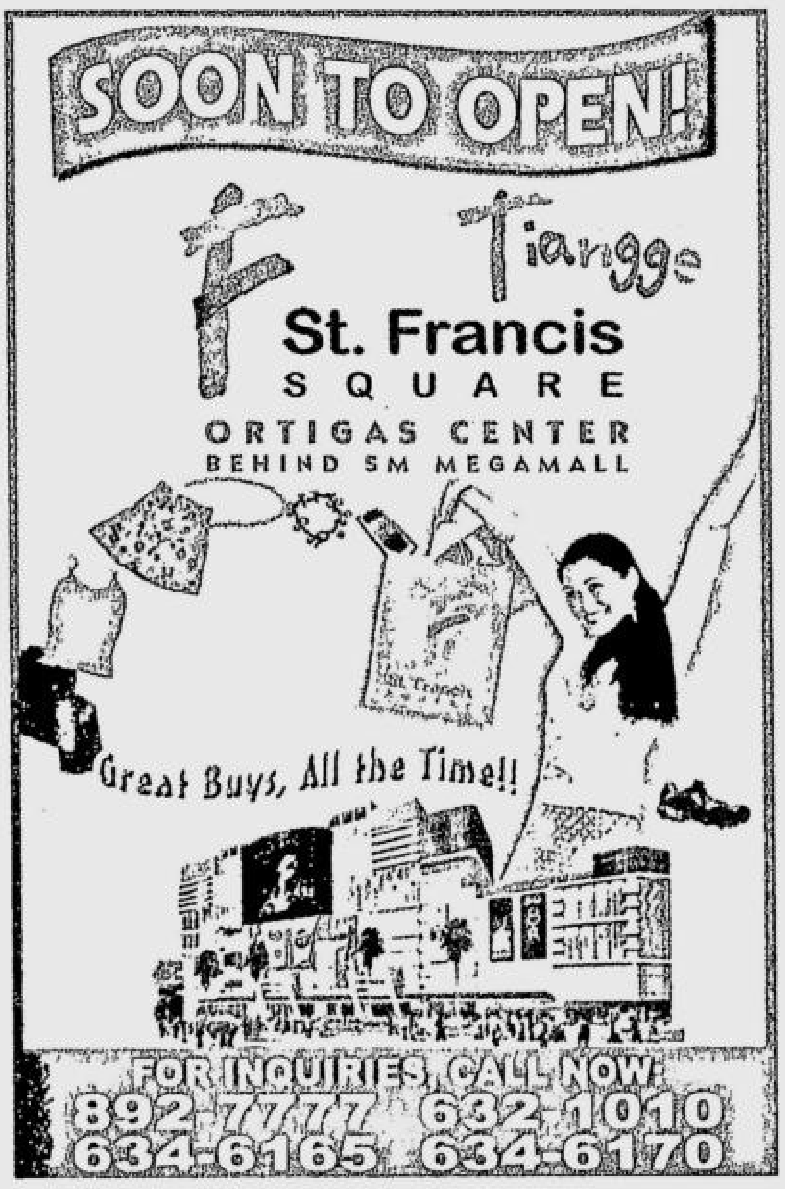
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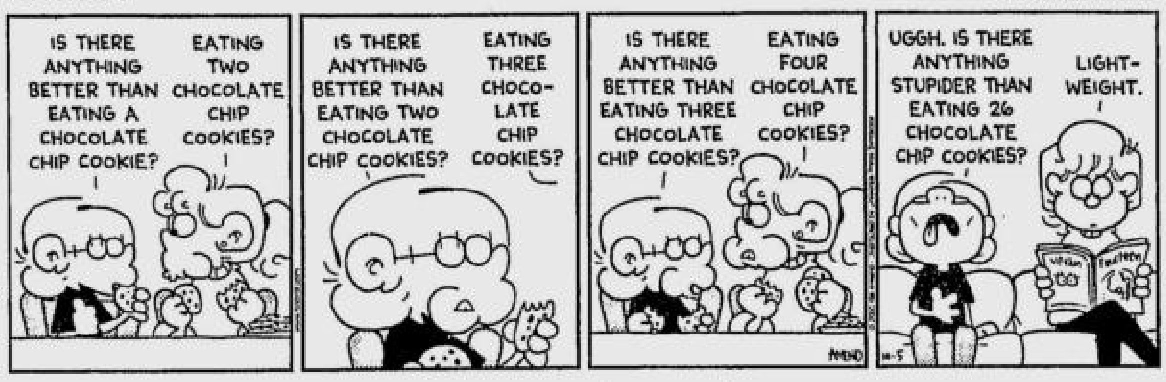
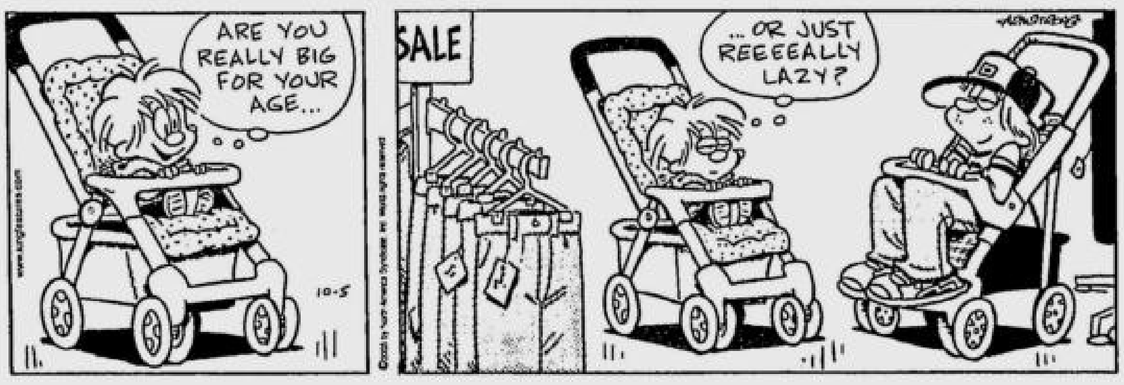
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005

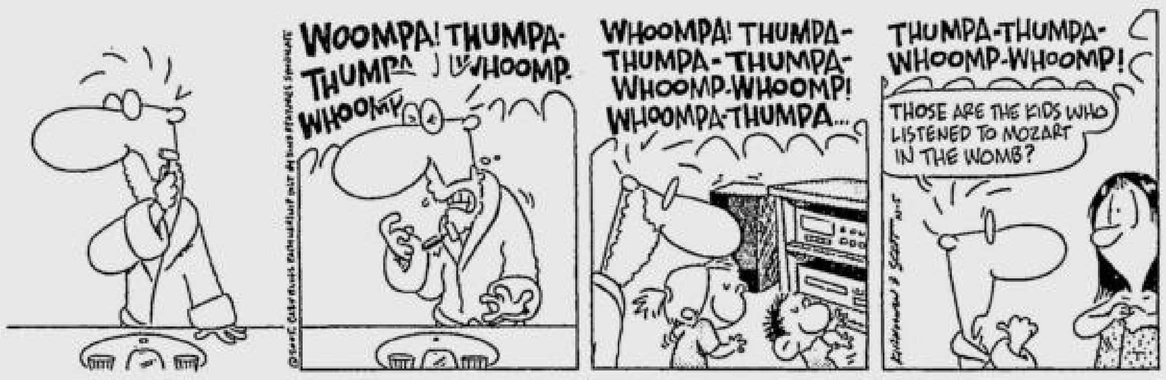
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN EATING A CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE?
EATING TWO CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN EATING TWO CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
EATING THREE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN EATING THREE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
EATING FOUR CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
UGGH. IS THERE ANYTHING STUPIDER THAN EATING 26 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
LIGHT-WEIGHT.
AMEND
10-5

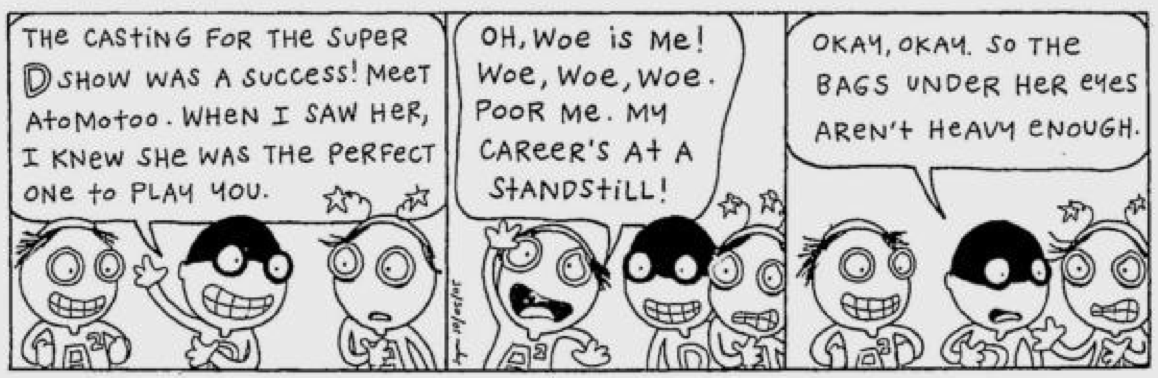
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ARE YOU REALLY BIG FOR YOUR AGE...
10-5
SALE
... OR JUST REEEEALLY LAZY?
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WOOMPA! THUMPA-THUMPA WHOOMP JWHOOMP.
WHOOMPA! THUMPA-THUMPA-THUMPA-WHOOMP-WHOOMP! WHOOMPA-THUMPA...
THUMPA-THUMPA-WHOOMP-WHOOMP!
THOSE ARE THE KIDS WHO LISTENED TO MOZART IN THE WOMB?

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


The casting for the Super D show was a success! Meet AtoMotoo. When I saw her, I knew she was the perfect one to play you.
Oh, Woe is Me! Woe, Woe, Woe. Poor me. My career's at a standstill!
Okay, okay. So the bags under her eyes aren't heavy enough.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Justice is important to you. You often embrace important causes. You're not a fence-sitter. You're fun-loving; you enjoy a good time. Nevertheless, you like to make good use of your life. You want to think you made a difference. You're democratic and fair. Work hard this year to build something important.
Birthdate of: Bob Geldof, activist/musician; Kate Winslet, actress; Mario Lemieux, hockey player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel extremely optimistic when dealing with others today. If you're in sales and marketing, you're deadly! All your exchanges with others will be positive and upbeat. (Great business day.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day at work. All business and commerce are favored. Work-related travel is also favored. You easily see the big picture now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're extremely creative today! Everything having to do with show business, the hospitality industry, professional sports and working with children can go extremely well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with family members are friendly, open-minded and tolerant. You might even invite people to your home for a special meeting or a study group. (It's a good day for this.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're happy to be alive today. Life feels good. Conversations with others are pleasant. The only downside that is you might overlook details at work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. You've got lots of moneymaking ideas. You certainly know how to spend money today as well. (That's OK.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You easily see the big picture today. You also have a better understanding of other countries and different cultures. You actually feel wise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're in a good frame of mind to give others excellent advice today. (People should listen to you!) You see how certain situations affect other situations. You quickly grasp the relationships of things. (Oh wise one!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a marvelous day to talk to friends and groups. You'll enjoy an easy, lighthearted camaraderie with everyone. Discussions with others can also help you plan for the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a marvelous day to talk to bosses, authority figures, parents and teachers. Your understanding of issues is excellent now. People will be impressed with you!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a lovely day to make travel plans or plans related to publishing and higher education. Sign up for a course. Contact people far away. Reach out and expand your experience of the world.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can turn a pretty penny today. You might hear a hot tip. Also, others are ready to help you today. Gifts, goodies and great ideas come your way. Keep your pockets open!

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				■	18					■	19			
20				21						22				
23			■	24			■	■	■	25				
26			27			■	28	29	30		■	31		
32				■	■	33					34	■	■	■
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■	■	■	40						■	■	41			42
43	44	45	■	46				■	47	48				
49			50		■	■	■	51			■	52		
53					54	55	56				57			
58				■	59					■	60			
61				■	62					■	63			
64				■	65					■	66			

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/5/05

ACROSS
1 Work units
5 Black card
10 Throw
14 Be without
15 Greek colony
16 Der __ (Adenauer)
17 Gillette shaver
18 Lawn makeup
19 Campus sports org.
20 Fraud at the restaurant?
23 Heavy weight
24 Actress Susan
25 Earthen dike
26 Draw out
28 French cheese
31 Actor Byrnes
32 Display model
33 Vagabond
35 Fraud at the ice cream parlor?
40 Did some carpentry work
41 Volcano near Manila
43 Pompous person
46 March date
47 Snoopy, for one
49 "Skittle Players" painter
51 Heart of a hurricane
52 Gore and Jarreau
53 Fraud at the mattress factory?
58 Levin and Gershwin
59 George Sand novel
60 Bern's river
61 Nerve network
62 Singer Bonnie
63 Body covering
64 Biographer of Henry James
65 Cheeky
66 Barcelona aunts

DOWN
1 Made into law
2 Upgraded machinery
3 Apache leader
4 Nebr. neighbor
5 Official seal
6 "__ and Bess"
7 Henry Gray subj.
8 Real looker
9 Relaxation
10 Tippy craft
11 Room recess
12 Provided capital for
13 Ribbed
21 Dictator Amin
22 Censor's insertion
27 __ de grace
28 Portends
29 Sudden attack
30 Fiendish little one
33 Coty or Descartes
34 Poet Dove
36 Russian pancakes
37 Young Scot
38 Atomic bomb blast site
39 Italian mall
42 Abates
43 Strive toward an end
44 Eyed a while
45 Tranquil
47 Out-of-the-way way
48 Shoe-box letters
50 Short-lived Ford
51 Departs
54 Workers' rights grp.
55 Toothed wheel
56 Director Kazan
57 Boss Tweed's lampooner

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

O	V	A	L	S	■	S	U	R	E	■	S	H	A	Q
M	E	R	I	T	■	C	L	I	P	■	H	U	R	T
A	R	I	S	E	■	A	N	T	I	P	O	D	E	S
R	A	Z	Z	L	E	D	A	Z	Z	L	E	■	■	■
■	■	T	E	X	■	■	■	Y	O	U	■	B	A	G
T	R	A	■	S	U	M	O	■	A	R	C	A	N	A
S	A	L	S	■	R	A	Z	E	■	A	A	R	O	N
E	D	W	I	N	B	U	Z	Z	A	L	D	R	I	N
T	I	A	R	A	■	L	I	R	R	■	S	I	N	E
S	A	Y	S	S	O	■	E	A	R	L	■	O	T	T
E	L	S	■	H	O	I	■	■	■	A	A	A	■	■
■	■	■	F	U	Z	Z	Y	W	U	Z	Z	I	E	S
R	E	C	L	A	I	M	E	R	■	I	O	N	I	A
A	L	O	E	■	N	I	T	A	■	E	T	O	N	S
J	I	N	X	■	G	R	I	P	■	R	E	N	E	E

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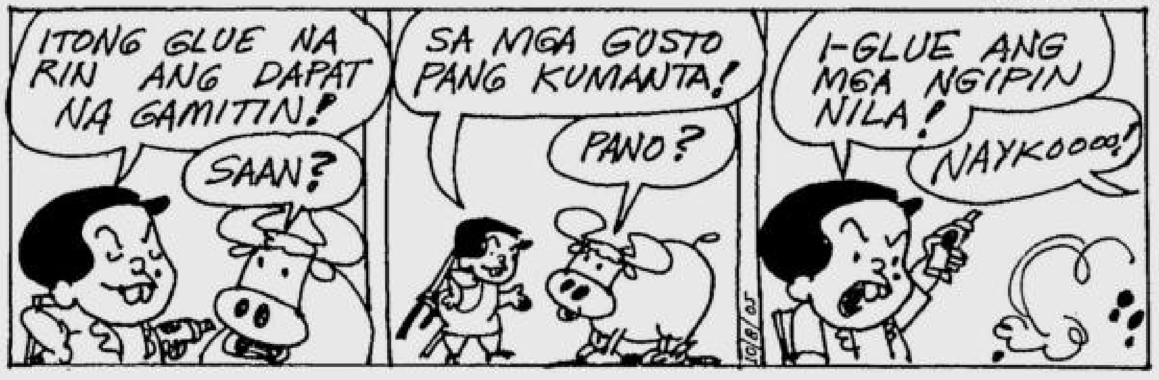
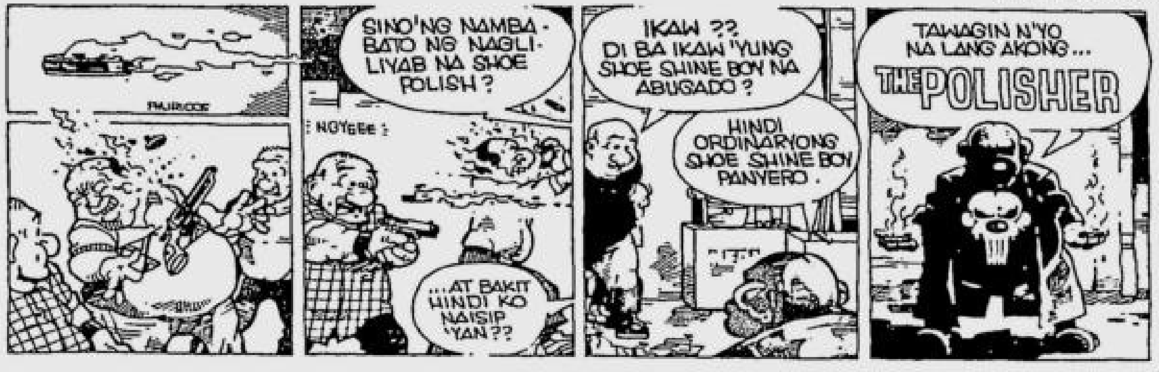
10/5/05

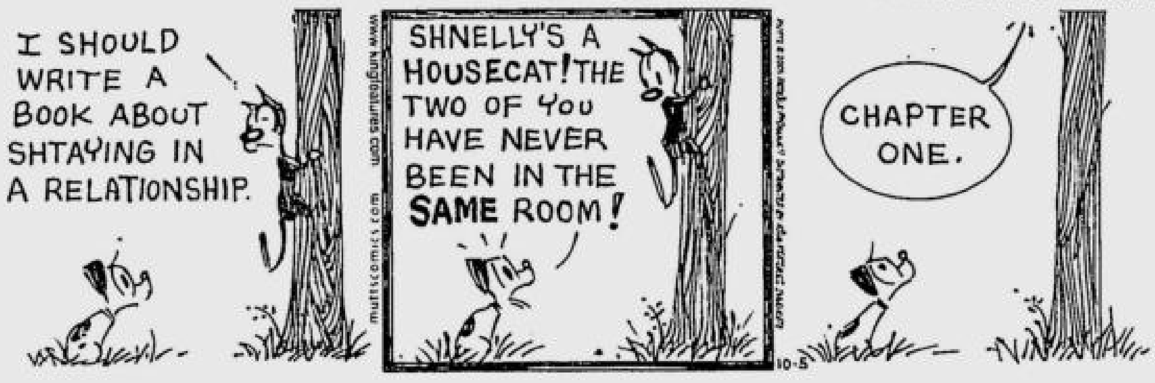
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ITONG GLUE NA RIN ANG DAPAT NA GAMITIN!
SAAN?
SA MGA GUSTO PANG KUMANTA!
PANO?
I-GLUE ANG MGA NGIPIN NILA!
NAYKOOOO!
10/8/05

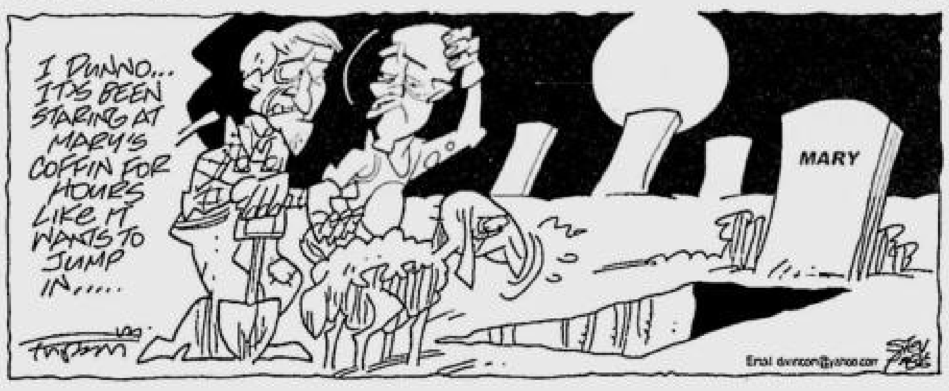
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAJIRCOE
SINO'NG NAMBA-BATO NG NAGLI-LIYAB NA SHOE POLISH?
NOYEEE!
...AT BAKIT HINDI KO NAISIP 'YAN??
IKAW ?? DI BA IKAW 'YUNG SHOE SHINE BOY NA ABUGADO?
HINDI ORDINARYONG SHOE SHINE BOY PANYERO.
TAWAGIN N'YO NA LANG AKONG...
THE POLISHER

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

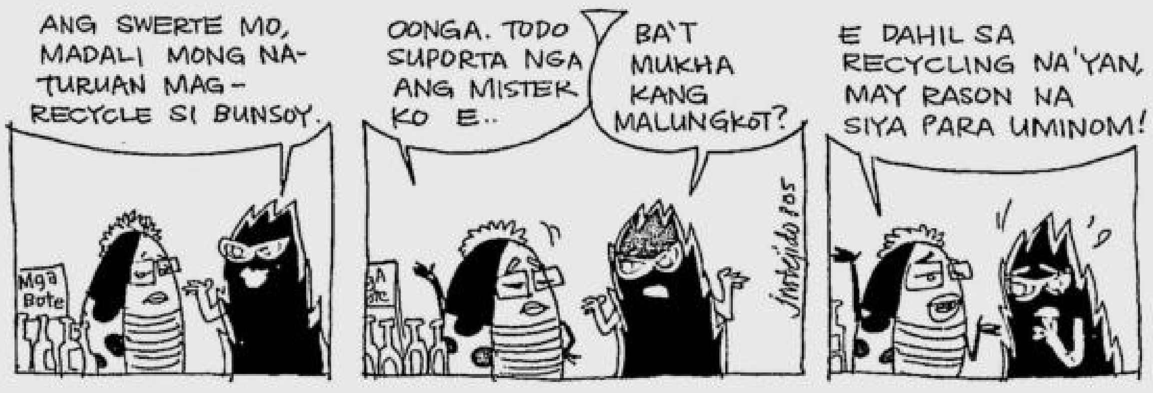

I SHOULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT SHTAYING IN A RELATIONSHIP.
SHNELLY'S A HOUSECAT! THE TWO OF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE SAME ROOM!
CHAPTER ONE.
muttscomics.com
10-5

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

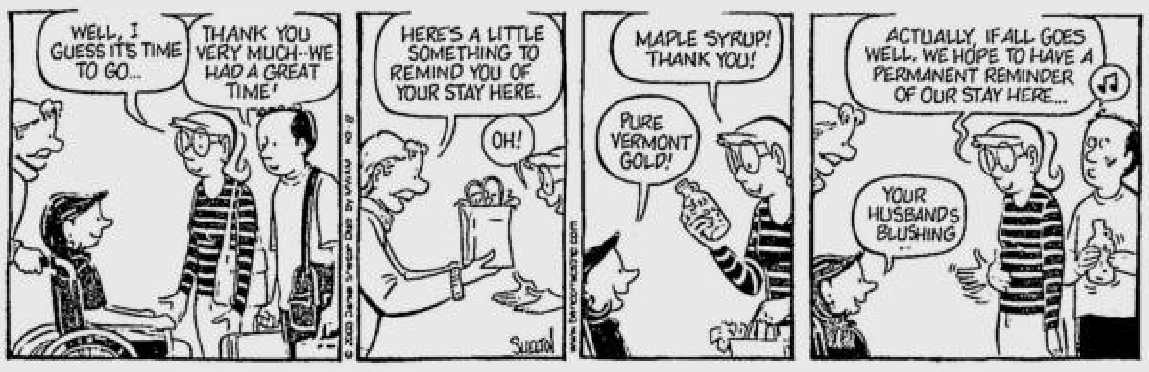

I DUNNO... IT'S BEEN STARING AT MARY'S COFFIN FOR HOURS LIKE IT WANTS TO JUMP IN.....
MARY
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

MARY'S LITTLE LAMB

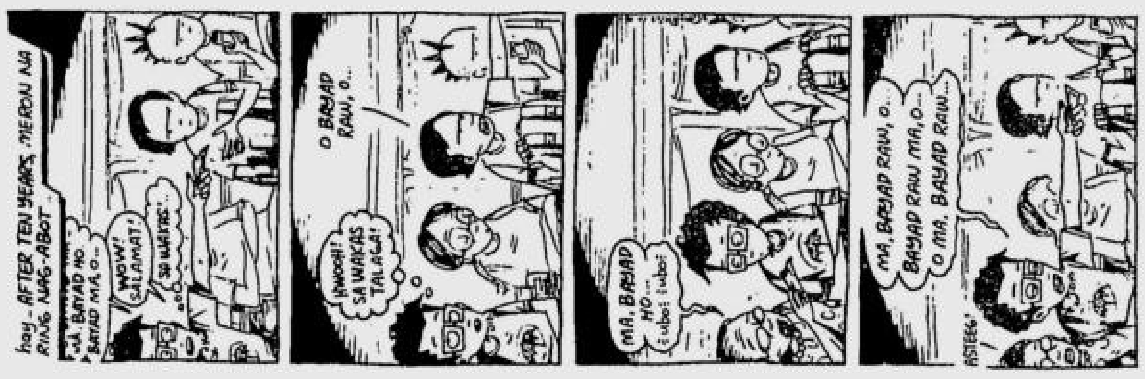
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SWERTE MO, MADALI MONG NATURUAN MAG-RECYCLE SI BUNSOY.
Mga Bote
OONGA. TODO SUPORTA NGA ANG MISTER KO E..
BA'T MUKHA KANG MALUNGKOT?
jmtejido 805
E DAHIL SA RECYCLING NA'YAN, MAY RASON NA SIYA PARA UMINOM!

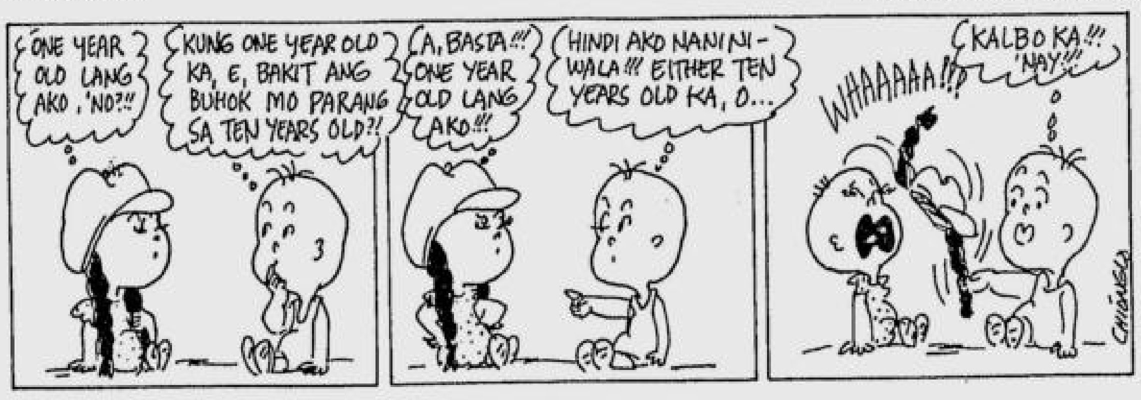
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GO...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH--WE HAD A GREAT TIME!
HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR STAY HERE.
OH!
MAPLE SYRUP! THANK YOU!
PURE VERMONT GOLD!
ACTUALLY, IF ALL GOES WELL, WE HOPE TO HAVE A PERMANENT REMINDER OF OUR STAY HERE...
YOUR HUSBAND'S BLUSHING

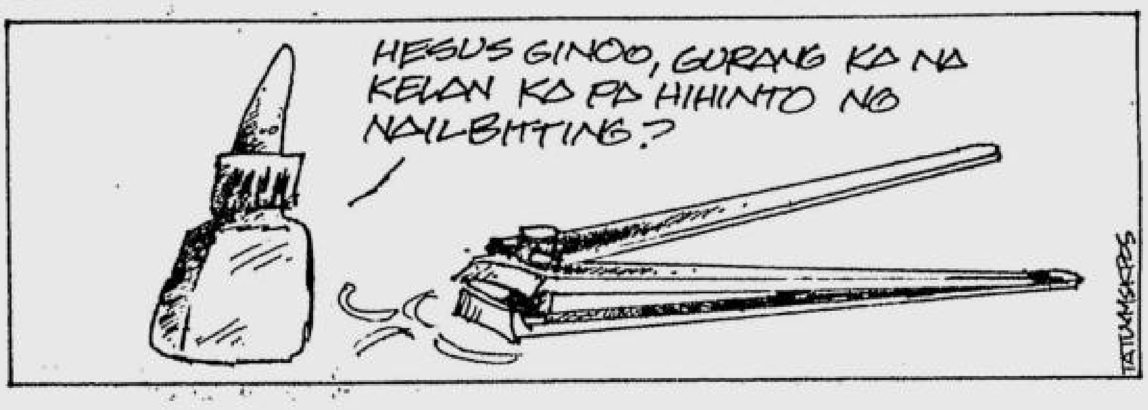
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... AFTER TEN YEARS, MERON NA RING NAG-ABOT
..A, BAYAD MO BAYAD MA, O...
WOW! SALAMAT!
SA WAKAS!
O BAYAD RAW, O...
HAAAH! SA WAKAS TALAGA!
MA, BAYAD HO... (ulbo! (ulbo!
MA, BAYAD RAW, O... BAYAD RAW MA, O... O MA, BAYAD RAW...
ASTEEG!

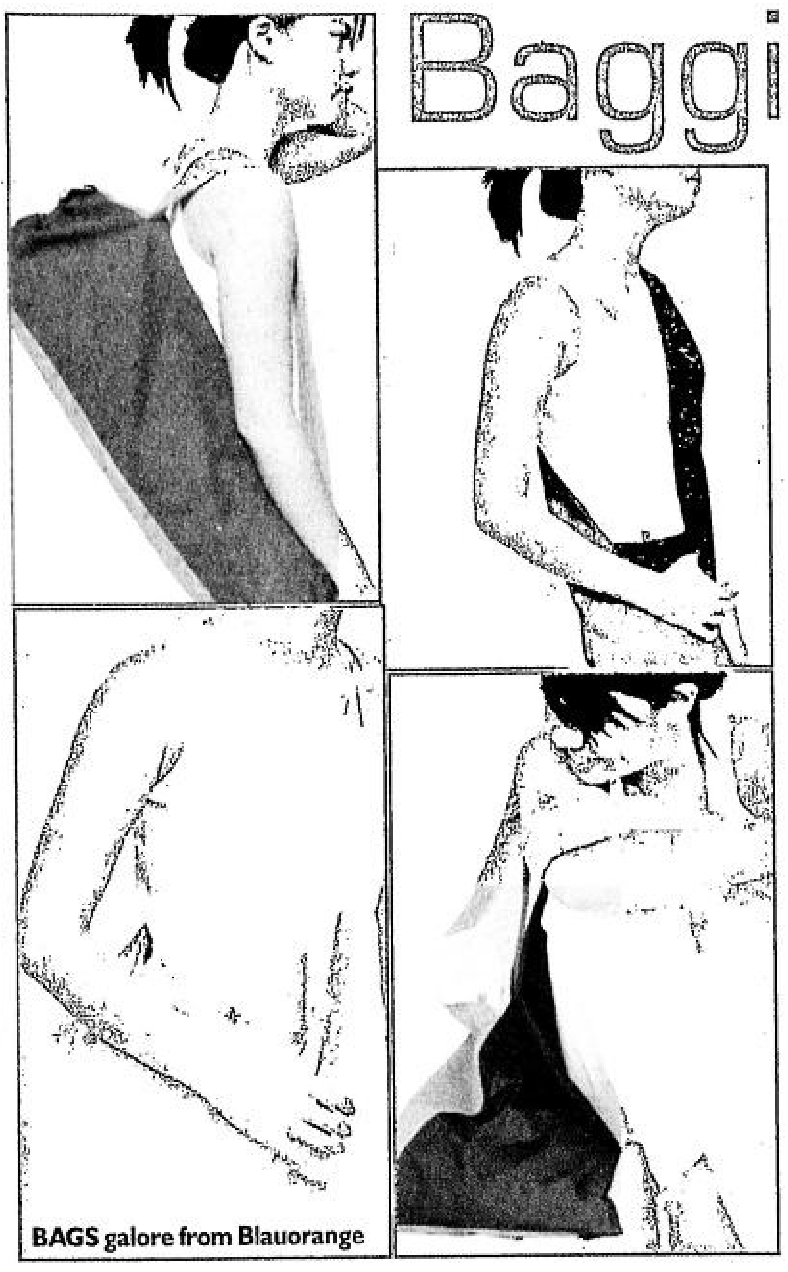
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ONE YEAR OLD LANG AKO, 'NO?!!
KUNG ONE YEAR OLD KA, E, BAKIT ANG BUHOK MO PARANG SA TEN YEARS OLD?!
A, BASTA!!! ONE YEAR OLD LANG AKO!!!
HINDI AKO NANINIWALA!!! EITHER TEN YEARS OLD KA, O...
WHAAAAA!!!
KALBO KA!!! 'NAY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HESUS GINOO, GURANG KA NA KELAN KA PA HIHINTO NG NAILBITING?
TATUM&PAPU

Bagging rights



BAGS galore from Blauorange

By Pam Pastor

Applause, applause for Via Medina-Perlas' Blauorange line of stylish, functional bags

IN THE QUEST TO DO something new and more creative, Maria Victoria Felisa Medina-Perlas decided to start her own line of bags. Called Blauorange (meaning blue and orange in German), she says her products were inspired by her one-year stay in Europe.

This graduate of AB Communications from Ateneo de Manila first sold her bags to her family and friends (Her sister's a big fan, and has about eight Blauorange bags.) And although her initial market was made up of females from 16-26, that has expanded to girls in their pre-teens and women over 26.

Using high-quality cotton (either Italian cotton, baby cotton or cotton poplin), Via says her products come in "a wash of colors that are functional yet stylish." Beadwork is handmade and she makes sure each bag meets her standards.

Her bestseller is the large Reversabag, but her favorites are the Duality bag and the Yogibag.

She's sold 300 bags since she started.

The best thing about being a young entrepreneur, says Via, is "answering to yourself at the end of the day and being unafraid to experiment."

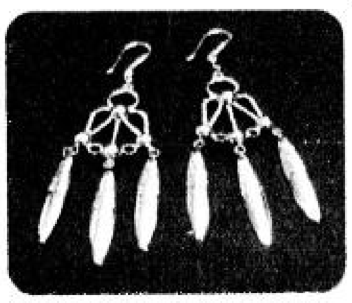
She has a lot of plans for the future. "Exporting someday would be really cool. But for now, I just want to try and see how far I can take Blauorange locally."

For orders, visit www.blauorange.com, text Via at 0917-8467192 or e-mail info@blauorange.com.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

CLAMP-ON bracelet with blue sapphire



CHANDELIER earrings, P720

BRIDAL crown stone ring, P2,250

Accessories come and go but some things remain constant, like our old friend silver

Good old silver

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

WE ALL KNOW THAT accessories come and go.

Yesterday's flower brooches are today's dust-gatherer. Slap bracelets are a thing of the past, just like Buddha beads and baller ID bracelets (although some people are still bent on wearing them).

But some things remain constant, almost as if they are protected by fashion's magic bubble. Things like silver.

Since 1994, GaeaCrafts has been producing high-quality handcrafted Philippine-made silver jewelry and gift items. The Fashion Freaks checked out their latest creations and were pleased to see that our good old friend silver still works with any outfit, whether for casual days or for more dress-up times.

With simpler designs priced at several hundred pesos and more intricate creations with semi-precious and precious stones at thousands, GaeaCrafts has something for everyone's taste and budget.

GaeaCrafts also offers free cleaning, repair, engraving, ear-piercing and made-to-order designs. Aside from that, GaeaCrafts has a gift for silver's loyal friends: the SilverEdge privilege card which gives its customers access to discounts.

Visit GaeaCrafts at Alabang Town Center, Ali Mall, Market! Market!, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place-Lipa and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

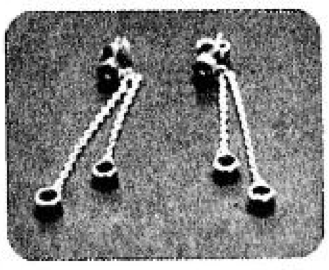
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com

CHANGE your necklace's look with different pendants.

THERE are rings for every taste and budget.

HOOP earrings, P510



DANGLING earrings, P600 (left) and P2,100 (above)

Lush for life

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

The brand known for its handmade organic skincare products has new variations on its old staples

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT Lush, the "purveyor of fresh handmade cosmetics," is that it is easy to locate in the mall—all you have to do is to follow the trail of that distinctive Lush scent.

There's always something for everyone in a Lush store—bath bombs for luxurious soaks in the bathtub, yummy shower gels, butter creams and soaps that smell and look so good that you can almost eat them (an impish friend of mine once set out a bar of Lush chocolate-shaped soap on a plate to get her perpetually starved brother to eat it).

All the products, favored by beauty addicts and celebrities around the world, are handmade and organic.

Proof of the quality of Lush's products is the longevity of the brand.

Recently, Lush celebrated its 10th anniversary with a children's party-themed bash and the launch of several promos.

Lush lovers can now get more of their favorite products with its Buy Two, Take One promo, which runs until Oct. 31.

Because of the sheer volume of Lush products, you may get confused. Start with Lush's original products, which have remained popular despite the introduction of new ones through the years.

Many Lush fanatics swear by the Butterball Ballistic, a vanilla-scented bath bomb that moisturizes you down to your toes; the Tisty Tosty, a heart-shaped rose bath bomb; and the Therapy massage bar.

Also popular is the Banana Moon Soap, which smells like banana milkshake combined with ice cream.

Original facial products include Skin Drink, a hydrating moisturizer for dry skin; Tea Tree Water, a spray designed to fight oily skin; and Ambrosia, a razor cream for men.

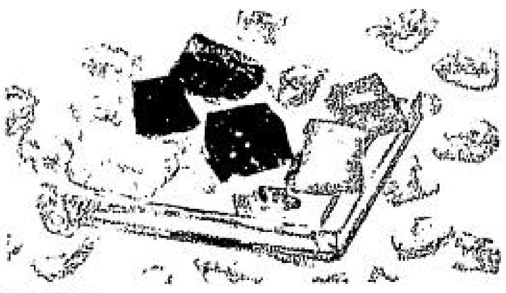
LEMSLIP

RING of roses

New products

If you prefer new products, try new variations of the popular body moisturizer, the Butter Cream. The line has new scents and names such as Almond Butter, Ring of Roses, Heavenly Bodies (orange blossom), Lemslip (lemon and lime), Skinny Dip (coconut), and Emperor of Ice Cream (mango butter and macadamia).

Other Lush products are Jellies, bath gels that look and feel like Jell-O. Check out Bada Bing Bada Boom (rose and jasmine), Party On (lime and rosemary), Spank Me With Saplings (bay and olive leaves), Strawberry Twin Tub, Sweety Pie (cherry and coconut), and Whoosh (grapefruit and geranium).



JELLIES

The new lineup also includes the shower gels—Happy Hippy (grapefruit), Olive Branch (olive oil and mandarin juice), and Sonic Death Monkey (a luscious combination of chocolate and orange), as well as a soap called Schnuggle, made with cocoa butter and lavender.

To top it all off, Lush also came up with new gift sets, which make great presents. While you can shop around Lush to pick out something for your loved ones, there are also pre-packaged items that contain the most popular products, so you can save time on shopping.

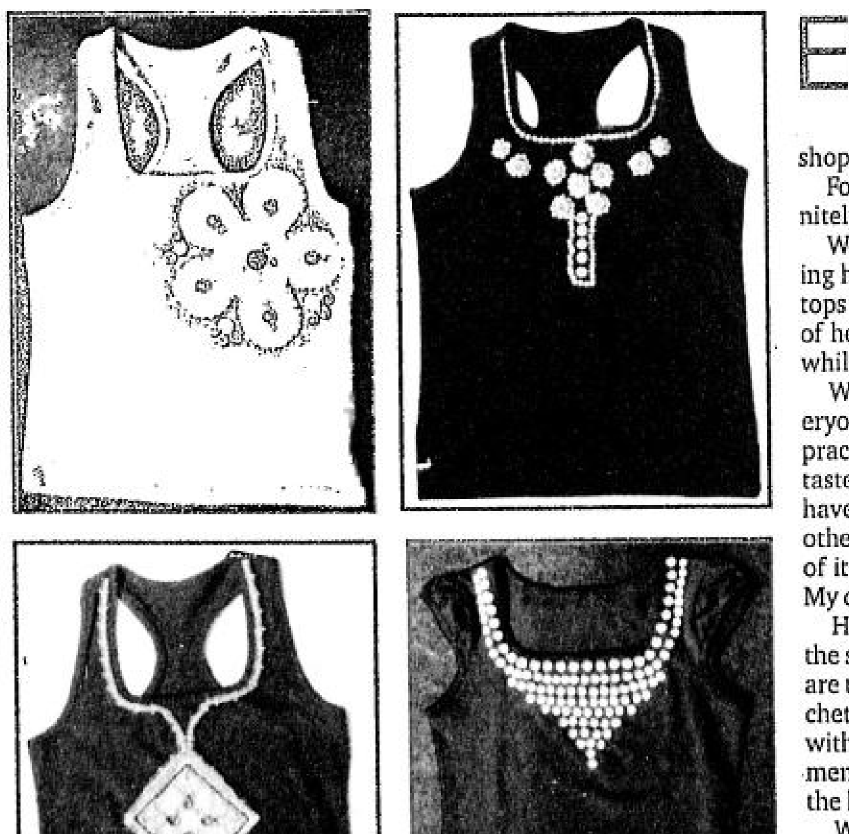
The "Happy Birthday" gift set, for instance, contains a Tisty Tosty and Butterball Ballistics, Karma, Banana Moon, and Bohemian soaps, and the Therapy and Blue Skies Bubble Bar.

The "My Favorite Man" set, meanwhile, contains Sea Vegetable soap, a Blackberry Ballistic, Ambrosia shaving cream and Freeze shower gel.

Check out Lush stores at Greenbelt, Glorietta, Shangri-La and Rockwell.

Embellishment is her game

From page D1



UNIQUELY designed tops, P700-P900

shop, you are also helping someone else.

Four, the character. These products definitely have attitude.

Wendy has gone a long way from just selling her creations to friends. Now, some of her tops and flip flops are available at Ishq, some of her bags can be found in Tonic and Kikay, while her flip flops are in Sweet Pea.

Wendy believes she has something for everyone. "My products are definitely unique, practical, appealing, and can suit different tastes since my designs are quite diversified. I have designs that appeal to minimalists and others that appeal to those who just love more of it. They're easy to pair with other clothes. My designs can be used day or night."

Her bestsellers include the gym bags and the shell and gold flip flops. Wendy's favorites are the denim gym bag, the flip flops with crochet patterns and gems, and the red racerback with the gold patch. "I have a personal attachment to it since it was the most elaborate and the hardest to make!"

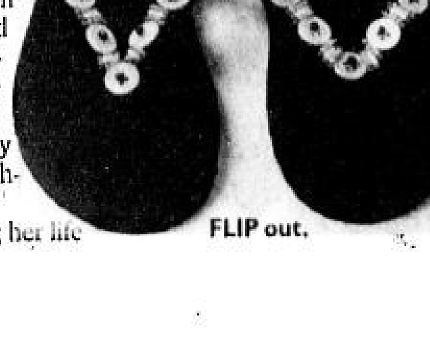
Wendy draws her inspiration from a lot of things. "I am inspired by the different design trends that I see whenever I travel. I am inspired by whatever I see that is unique, weird and scandalous. I love looking at vintage items, photos and magazines. I am inspired by the creativity of other Filipino designers like Bea Valdes, Rafe Totengco and Monique Lhuillier. Most of all, I am inspired whenever my clients are happy and satisfied."

YELLOW button bag, P650

There are a lot of things in store for Wendy. "I have plans of getting a second degree in Fashion Merchandising Management or Product Development. Afterwards, I would like to train under fashion retailers and soon, if given the opportunity, to have my own boutique (whether here or abroad) that would not only sell my products but also those of other Filipino designers."

Right now, she is enjoying her life as a young entrepreneur. "The best thing about being a young entrepreneur is being able to learn through experience. It is a big advantage since being young allows me to have the time to learn, experiment and get back on track whenever I fail.

"Being young allows me to explore more opportunities, and the room for improvement is very big. Being young helps me become more open to new ideas, suggestions and change, which I believe are essential to someone who wants to make a niche in the fashion industry. Having a young mind, I am open to new ideas and designs that would further hone my skill in this career that I have chosen."



FLIP out.

For orders, e-mail Wendy at wen2chua@yahoo.com or visit Ishq (G/F Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tel. 6876725), Tonic (G/F Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tel. 6872724), Kikay (Stall 0-14 Shoppesville Plus Shoppesville Arcade San Juan, MM, tel. 7213616) and Sweet Pea (Courtyard Bldg., 26 Sgt. Esguerra St. Brgy. South Triangle, QC, tel. 4123499).

Beauty fixes worth their bucks

Lora Gabol

MOST PEOPLE GET THE impression that I am perfect for a job like this—me always wanting to learn and share what the buzz is in the beauty world.

Well, I believe, modesty aside, that this is true. Cosmetic brands, product names, makeup shades and beauty trivia do occupy a freakishly high number of my brain cells. There are times, though, when I think the more apt way to describe this job is that it's perfect for a girl like me who's always being protective of my wallet.

Let's just say that not a day has gone by without me thanking God of beauty for all the blessings (read: samples) He has showered upon *kuripot* little me.

All things considered, I've actually improved. I've learned that the secret to balancing a bank account and a healthy love for beauty products is to know what to lay down big bucks for, and what deserves your spare change.

Skincare advocates know that money is hardly the issue when the products they're *hiyang* to are concerned. Many a scrimped-on regimen have left complexions broken out, burnt and damaged, and the realization that to have spent more on quality products is truly worth it only comes when chastened customers hand in their extension Visas at the derma's office.

The case is different with makeup, however. This is where budget constraints can be easily managed and worthy alternatives to high-end products are readily available. When to be indulgent and when to be thrifty—that's what you really have to keep in mind. Here's a simple guide:

Spend on:

Foundation. I've done the rounds in department stores, and while mid-priced foundations have gone beyond being either Caladryl or siopao-inspired, it is still the P500 and above foundations that really deliver.

Why the cost? You are assured that the pigment mix is naturally present in your own skin, which is the guarantee that the perfect shade for you is just a tester away. Asian brands like Shu Uemura and Shiseido are no-fail matches to our undertones, while Mac has a very *sulit* offering in its Studio Tech Foundation, which can also be used as concealer.

Neutrals. A nice peachy-flesh blush, eyeshadow in taupe and bone, a pink-nude lipstick or gloss—these are the white shirts of makeup: they'll go well with everything you already own, are great for both casual and glam days, and will get more mileage than any other items in your kit.

The secret to a healthy bank account and a love for beauty products is to know what to lay down money for

You want to look for the ones with the best texture, finish and staying power, and these require a higher price tag than most.

Tools. These are subject to discretion, as expensive tools require the skills of a pro. There are a few exceptions, though, that work the other way around. Makeup For Idiots 101 will agree that even without the magic hands of a pro, a great loose powder and blush brush can help achieve good results. This is because smoother, well-cut brushes don't give you streaky blush and cakey powder.

Eyelash curler. Even 10 coats of mascara can't make eyelashes stay curled without a perfectly shaped eyelash curler. It's true: the shape of both the metal and the pad counts. It's no secret that the pros' choice is still Shu Uemura.

But what really impresses me is how Shu doesn't just rest on its laurels. It has come out with limited-editions of this staple in 24K Gold and Nickel that don't just look luxe but work better for those with sensitive skin and are more resistant to the wear-and-tear of being inside a makeup kit.

The perfect red lipstick. If your neutrals are the white shirts of your makeup wardrobe, the perfect red lipstick is your essential little black dress. It's all you'll need to look dressed up and polished.

Thus, it's an absolute must that you pick out the perfect shade of red in the perfect creamy texture. Go fire-engine and you'll look like a night-district standby, go too matte and you'll appear to have stepped out of Pearl Harbor. In any case, it is always best to stick to the tried-and-tested brands.

Next week, the items that will make your wallets go "Yahoo!"

Shu Uemura and Mac at Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La; Shiseido at Glorietta 3 and My Beauty Hub, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

Win shoes for your girl!

2BU! AND MERRELL INVITES you to win shoes for your girl by sharing your experiences in the great outdoors.

Send us a photo of your great adventure (adventure racing, rock climbing, rapelling/abseiling, kayaking, orienteering, bungee jumping, sky diving, trail running, backpacking, mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing or any extreme sports activity—it's up to you) and an essay telling us about it.

Senders of our eight favorite entries will receive a pair of Merrell's women shoes for their favorite girl. We will choose the best photo essay from the eight and the winner will receive Merrell GCs worth P10,000.

If you're male, 18 years old and above, send us a high-quality photo of your adventure (not digitally manipulated, please) along with a brief description. Don't forget to include your name, age, address, contact info and the shoe size of your favorite girl.

E-mail your entries to contest 2bu@inquirer.com.ph

2BU!'S BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT

Win The Beach Boys tickets for your parents!

IT'S 2BU!'S BIRTHDAY MONTH AND because we wouldn't be here without you, we're going to start our three-month birthday blowout for our readers today.

This week, we're giving you the chance to win concert tickets for your parents. We've giving away five pairs of tickets to "The Beach Boys Live in Manila!" concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 7. (Each ticket costs P1,500.)

Let us know why your parents deserve the tickets, and send your entries along with your name, school/office, contact info to contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph.

Winners will be notified by telephone on Thursday. They can pick up their prizes from Ms Ching de la Cruz at the INQUIRER office on Thursday and Friday before 5 p.m.

Keep reading 2bU! We still have lots of exciting prizes in store for you.

San Miguel BEER
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INTRAMUROS
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SM CITY, CEBU
STA. LUCIA, CAINTA
STARMALL, LAS PIÑAS
STATIONS 1, 2 AND 3, BORACAY
THE VENUE, DAVAO

• SCHEDULE OF EVENTS •
Kickoff Party: FRIDAY, SEPT 30
Closing Party: FRIDAY, OCT 28

MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS:
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SMB Lucky 7 (P1M Cash Giveaway)

FRIDAYS TO SATURDAYS:
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